STARS STRIPES.

Consumers warned about exploding cell phones

Brothers clash in Cowbovs. Bears Thanksgiving game

'The Incredibles' show their suburban side

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2004

Giving "I'm thankful for having all my fingers and toes." Spc. Jose Bartual thanks 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment in Iraq Close calls leave troops counting their blessings Page 4 The sappers from Company B of the 9th Engineer Battalion have suffered more than their share of close calls from mine explosions to mortar attacks to firefights. Their job is to find and identify roadside bombs before the bombs blow up, which exposes them added risk. They are, from left: Pfc. Denaunbe Joshua, 20, of Washington D.C.; Sgt. Jason Benton, 25, of Forti na, Calif.; and Spc. Steve Wetmore,

20, of Union City, Pa.

STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Str

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ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Preppie killer arrested: "Preppie Killer" Robert Chambers, who was released from state prison last year, has been arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license and criminal drug possession.

Chambers was arrested during a traffic stop Tuesday at about 7:20 p.m. at Harlem River Drive and East 132nd Street in Harlem, New York. Police said that his car had no inspection sticker, and that they found a suspected illegal substance which was being tested on Wednesday.

Chambers confessed in 1988 to strangling 18-year-old Jennifer Levin two years earlier during a tryst in Central Park. He was released from the Auburn Correctional Facility on Valentine's Day 2003, after serving a 15-year sentence.

Evidence challenge: Defense attorneys for a Palestinian former professor accused of terrorism in Tampa, Fla, want a federal judge to throw out almost all the government's evidence, saying improper searches and inappropriate surveillance violated their client's constitutional rights.

Attorneys William Moffitt and Linda Moreno said in separate motions filed this week that federal agents made vague allegations to justify search warrants and may have erred in targeting Sami Al-Arian, a former professor at the University of South Florida, for surveillance.

Al-Arian and eight other men are charged with material support for terrorism, racketeering and money laundering. Al-Arian's trial is scheduled to begin in April.

Simpson memorabilia: A memorabilia collector was ordered to turn over O.J. Simpson's press credentials from the 1984 Olympics in another tiny step toward satisfying a \$33.5 million award in a lawsuit that found Simpson liable for the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend.

The order was issued in Santa Monica, Calif., after a closed-door court hearing to determine whether Simpson, a National Football League Hall of Famer who later turned to acting, is hiding assets from the family of Ron Goldman, who was slain with Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994.

Alfred Beardsley, a real estate agent and collector, was questioned by attorney Peter Csato, who represents Goldman's father, Fred. Superior Court Judge Gerald Rosenberg then ordered Beardsley to turn over the press credentials, which Simpson wore as an Olympics commentator for ABC-TV, by Dec. 14.

It was unclear how much the Olympic press credentials were worth, but Csato said outside court that Beardsley told them about "other tangible properties of substantive value" belonging to Simpson that Beardsley may be able to lead them to. Csato declined to elaborate.

Oscar screener: A former member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences accused of leaking "screener" copies of movies was fined \$300,000, the maximum allowed under federal law.

A federal judge ordered Carmine Caridi to pay Warner Bros. \$150,000 each for providing copies of "The Last Samurai" and "Mystic River" to a second man, who copied them and made them available for download over the Internet.

Caridi. 70. has fold criminal investigators

he sent VHS copies of about 60 movies he received each year to 51-year-old Russell Sprague, who converted the VHS tape into DVD format and then sent the originals back to Caridi, authorities said.

Movie studios routinely send copies of



FAO Schwarz bankruptcy: Young children are greeted Monday by characters from FAO Schwarz outside the store on New York's Fifth Avenue. FAO Schwarz, the toy store known for its life-sized stuffed animals and kid-sized sportscars, hopes its refurbished Manhattan store reopening on Thanksgiving Day will cause children to squeal with joy and adults to open their wallets, as the company emerges from bankruptcy recommitted to high-end toys

films to Academy members, who view them in their homes as they prepare to vote in various categories for the annual Academy

In April, Sprague pleaded guilty to one count of copyright infringement for pirating Oscar screener copies of about 200 films including "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" and "Seabiscuit." He is awaiting sentencing.

Jet ski death: A California man whose wife died after the couple was stranded from what he said was a watercraft accident has been charged with killing her, more than a month after authorities first arrested him for the crime and then set him free.

Corbin Easterling, 35, was charged Tuesday with homicide, spousal battery and inflicting great bodily injury on Jennifer Easterling, 35.

Easterling was first arrested Oct. 14 but was freed four days later after prosecutors aid they needed more information and time to investigate his wife's Oct. 12 death. Further interviews and autopsy results led them to say they had sufficient evidence to convict him.

Health registry analysis: The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene said most people enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Registry reported one or more respiratory problems that started or became worse after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The quarterly report, released Monday, also said eight percent of the 70,000 enrolled adults experienced psychological distress in the 30-day period before being interviewed for the registry.

The report said 47 percent of interviewees complained of new or worsened sinus or nasal irritation; 42 complained of shortness of breath; and 38 percent complained of throat irritation and wheezing.

Other symptoms that participants complained of included persistent coughs, eye irritations, severe headaches and hearing loss.

World

Independent aid group in Fallujah: The first independent aid group to enter the

Iraqi city of Fallujah after two weeks of fighting saw some civilians, but had to turn back before delivering any assistance because of security concerns, the international Red Cross said Tuesday.

U.S. officials have said they have mostly cleared out insurgents in the city west of Baghdad, but have conceded a risk of attacks remains as U.S.-led forces hunt down remnants.

Ahmed Rawi, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said he was still awaiting a full report of the Iraqi Red Crescent on what it encountered, but was able to confirm that the convoy had entered Fallujah on Monday. He said the convoy, which consisted of ambulances and three trucks loaded with blankets, drinking water and first-aid kits, saw a few civilians before having to turn back.

Consular office reopens: The U.S. Embassy on Wednesday reopened its consular office in Bombay, India, after shutting it for a day following a threat of a possible terrorist

The Bombay offices reopened after a thorough security review, an embassy statement said.

Security around the American consulate was tightened Tuesday after the U.S. government warned that terrorists may be planning attacks on U.S. interests in India.

Quake housing: Hundreds of people living in public shelters following last month's earthquake in northern Japan began moving to temporary government-built houses on Wednesday.

The magnitude-6.8 earthquake on Oct. 23 and several large aftershocks in Niigata prefecture killed 40 people and damaged over 16,000 homes. About 6,300 people are still living in school gymnasiums and other public shelters.

In Nagaoka, the largest city in the quake zone, residents in shelters began moving into 190 prefabricated housing units built at a former train depot, said Niigat prefectural spokesman Gen Ishizuka. Another 25 units were built in a nearby town, Authorities plan to construct 3,500 housing units by mid-December for residents who lost their homes or had to evacuate because of the danger of landslides, Ishizuka said.

Stories and photo From The Associated Press

Purported al-Zarqawi tape scolds clerics

BY SAMEER N. YACOUE

BAGHDAD — An audiotape purportedby made by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi lashed out Wednesday at Muslim scholars for not speaking out against U.S. actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying they have "let us down in the darkest circumstances"

It was unclear whether the tape posted Wednesday on the Internet was intended as a direct threat against Iraq's Sunni religious establishment, who have come under attack recently with the slaying this week of two Sunni clerics by gunmen.

"You have let us down in the darkest cincumstances and handed us over to the enemy... You have quit supporting the mujahedeen," said the voice on the tape, purported to be al-Zarqawis. "Hundreds of thousands of the nation's sons are being slaughtered at the hands of the infidels because of your silence."

On the tape, which could not be authenticated, al-Zarqawi addressed his comments to the "ulama" — senior Islamic clerics and scholars. The tape was not posted by al-Zarqawi's designated media coordinator, Abu Maysara al-Iraqi, and it was unclear whether the material on it was new.

Al-Zarqawi, who leads the terror group known as al-Qaida in Iraq, is believed to have escaped from his headquarters in the insurgent-held stronghold of Fallujah during the massive U.S.-led assault earlier this month.

"You made peace with the tyramy and handed over the countries and the people to the Jews and Crusaders ... when you resort to silence on their crimes ... and when you prevented youth from heading to the battlefields in order to defend the religion," he said.

"Instead of implementing God's orders, you chose your safety and preferred your money and sons. You left the mujahedeen facing the strongest power in the world, he said. "Are not your hearts shaken by the scenes of your brothers being surrounded and hurt by your enemy?"

This week, two Sumi clerics were assassinated by gummen. Both clerics — one slain in the northern city of Mosul, the other in the town of Muqdadiyah just north of Baghdad — were members of an influential Sumi group that openly called for a boycott of Jan. 30 national elections because of the U.S. offensive against Falluish



A private security helicopter flies over Ibn Taimiyah Mosque in Baghdad on Wednesday, after a car bomb exploded nearby. An audiotape purportedly made by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi lashed out at Muslim scholars for not speaking out against U.S. actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying they have "let us down in the darkest circumstances."

It was unclear whether the two attacks were related, and there has been no claim of responsibility.

The audio message appeared as U.S. and Iraqi security forces continued their search for al-Zarqawi after reports that he was in the region north of Baghdad. The U.S. has placed a \$25 million bounty on his bend

His group is believed responsible for dozens of deadly bombings and gruesome beheadings of foreign hostages.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have been dealing with a wave of violence across Iraq, sparked by the assault on Fallujah and continuing even after the military says the former insurgent stronghold largely has been taken.

Five more bodies were found Wednesday in Mosul, the U.S. military said, bringing the total to 20 found in the city the past week.

Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, with Task Force Olympia, said it was not yet confirmerd whether the five men whose bodies were found belonged to Iraqi security forces. Before the latest grisly discovery, U.S. troops had found 10 bodies of Iraqi soldiers — nine of them shot execution-style. Five other bodies, including four decapitated ones, still have not been identified.

On Wednesday, Nineveh province's deputy governor said his convoy came under gunfire in Mosul, killing one of his bodyguards and injuring two others. An Interior Ministry special forces member in the area was also killed, he said

was also killed, he said.
Deputy Gov. Khasro Gouran said he was on his way home when his convoy was attacked. He said authorities were investigating the possibility that the convoy was mistakenly fired upon by the special Interior

Ministry force in the area.

In Mahmoudiya, guumen ambushed a taxi carrying an Iraqi National Guard soldier to his military base after dawn Wednesday, said Dr. Dawoud al-Taie of Mahmoudiya Hospital. There was no information on his condition.

Mahmoudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad, is in an area known as the "triangle of death," a region where rebels frequently attack U.S. and allied forces.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Pres

As of Tuesday, at least 1,229 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 957 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Tuesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,091 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 848 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 9,326 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by

the military:

Army Spc. Blain M. Ebert, 22,

Washtucna, Wash; killed Monday in hostile fire in Baghdad; assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Cpl. Michael R. Cohen, 23, Jacobus, Pa.; killed Monday in hostile action in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Rumsfeld: Iraqi troops' performance improving

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S.-trained Iraqi troops, faulted for ineffective fighting in previous clashes with insurgents, made a "generally pretty good" showing in the Fallujah offensive, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

Increasing the number and improving the ability of Iraqi security forces — soldiers, police and border guards — are essential to an American strategy for withdrawing from Iraq.

Rumsfeld said he was briefed earlier in the day by Gen. George Casey, the top American commander in Iraq, and Casey's boss, Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command, on the Iraqis' performance. "The report on the units of Iraqi forces that have been involved in Fallujah and elsewhere during this period has been generally pretty good and that they've performed well," Rumsfeld said.

There were "some instances

where it was not perfect," he said, but Iraqi troops are gaining confidence in the face of an insurgency Rumsfeld called "the murderous enemies of progress." Eight Iraqi troops were killed

in Fallujah fighting, compared with at least \$4 Americans, and about 10 times more Americans were wounded than Iraqi troops. That reflects the more direct role U.S. troops played in confronting the insurgents. The Iraqi forces served mostly in a support role.

At a Pentagon news confer-



Donald Rumsfeld

ence, Rumsfeld said it was too early to know how soon the Iraqi forces will be ready to take full responsibility for security, allowing the 138,000 U.S. troops to go

2 GIs killed, 1 wounded by Afghanistan bomb

By STEPHEN GRAHAM The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two U.S. soldiers died and another was injured when a bomb ripped through their patrol in southern Afghanistan Wednesday, a fresh reminder of the country's insecurity after a freshly resolved hostage drama.

The troops were attacked near Deh Rawood, a town 250 miles southwest of Kabul, in Uruzgan province, where the military has clashed repeatedly with Taliban militants

"We're sorry to say that two U.S. soldiers were killed and one U.S. soldier was injured," Maj. Mark McCann said. The wounded soldier was in stable condition at a nearby U.S. base. The military withheld the victims' names until their families could be informed, and gave no further details.

A total of 110 soldiers have died

since the United States attacked Afghanistan's former ruling Taliban and their al-Qaida allies in late 2001, according to U.S. government figures.

The toll exacted by Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts defying a U.S. force currently numbering about 18,000 pales next to the more than 1,200 Americans killed in Iraq

But there is concern Afghan militants are learning from their Iraqi counterparts, from the already widespread use of roadside bombs to the Oct. 28 kidnapping of three foreign election workers which sent shudders through Kabul's expatriate community.



Sgt. Orville Whitlock, 30, of Lynchburg, Va., explains how a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion Humvee during a patrol May 5. Whitlock and four other soldiers received shrapnel wounds which he said "feels like someone sliced open your back and poured in hot chicken grease" — but all surviv

On edge but thankful

Troops in Iraq wary of close calls yet grateful to be alive

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE

MACKENZIE Iraq ix hundred thirty times since the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Iraq last March, they have been attacked by the enemy

Sometimes a roadside bomb blows up next to a truck. A mortar explodes in the middle of the base. Insurgents pop out from hidden positions and open fire with AK-47 rifles on a whole convoy. In Iraq, the front

lines are nowhere, and they are everywhere.

here.
At a base like
OB MacKenzie, FOB home of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, it is hard to find an infantryman, engineer, supply sergeant, pilot or clerk who hasn't had a close brush with death Most have had sever-

They've lived through things they'll never share with anyone except other combat veterans and fought fear

beyond anything most civilians will ever feel. The experience has changed some of them in ways they don't yet realize. "These guys are battle-hardened.

There isn't anybody who hasn't been under attack," said Maj. Kirk Dorr, 38, of Marlboro, Mass., the squad-ron's operations officer. "The logisticians and convoy supporters see just as much contact as our line troops.'

Seven 1-4 Cavalry troopers and one civilian from MacKenzie have

died in the nine months since the unit took over the former Iraqi airfield 20 miles east of Samarra More

than 50 others have been wounded. Hundreds of 1-4 Cavalry soldiers have dodged death by a whisker, aided by luck, pluck or divine providence. Almost everyone here can name three or four or more occasions he should have died, but didn't

"I can't even count them," said Spc. Joshua Burgess, 25, of Arlington, Texas, a member of Troop B. He has lived through two bomb attacks on his convoy the same day and countless not shots he describes as

"nothing really significant."



Spc. Robert Laurell

For thousands of soldiers in the war zone, life itself is something to be grateful for this Thanksgiving

"I'm thankful for having all my fingers and toes," said Spc. Jose Bartual, 26, of New York City.

Spc. Jose Bartual

By now these men hardly mind small-arms fire, which at least gives them a chance to fight back. What they hate most are the roadside-bomb explosions. They come out of nowhere, from an invisible "The first 10 or 15 seconds, every-thing is chaos," said Capt. John Tryl-ch, 30, the Troop B commander. The explosion, the dust and dirt. .. The radios start screaming, everyone is yelling."

But then the training really does kick in. Soldiers remember what they're supposed to do: take a firing position, man a radio, organize troops or treat casualties. Leaders say panic is surprisingly rare.

"Even though you want to duck down, you can't," said Spc. Robert Laurell, 21, of Troy, Mo., a gunner for the 9th Engineers. "Your battle buddies are relying

on you to stay there and keep firing Heading out on the

next patrol isn't always easy. But it is part of the job. Every soldier must find a way to get past the fear

"Everybody deals with it differently," said Sgt. Jason Benton, 25, of the 9th En-gineers. "I just try not to think about it, act like it's the first time I'm going out again.'

Pfc Joshua Schmidt, 21, said he didn't want to leave the base in an armor less Humvee after

surviving a mine strike in an armored one last April. Bartual said he struggled to get back in his vehicle and go on patrols again after the near-miss at the cemetery.

"I was a nervous wreck after finishing that mission," Bartual said. "I used to get blisters from gripping the steering wheel so tight.'

Troops recount how they narrowly escaped death

Wrong place becomes right

Not long ago, Capt. John Trylch, 30, the lanky, redheaded N commander of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regi-ment's Troop B "Bulldawgs," issued a stern butt-chewing to one of his Bradley fighting vehicle crews for parking on the main road of Forward Operating Base MacKenzie, Iraq,

instead of 40 yards away in a marshaling yard, the proper spot to line up for the afternoon convoy.

Trylch thought about moving the Bradley and several Humvees to the vard but decided not to waste the time. Within five minutes, the commander and his troops heard the crack and the scream of an incoming rocket, followed by a deafening boom that sent everyone running for the safety of their armored vehicles.

"It was very quick very loud and very close," Trylch said, "We were scattering like roaches, running for cover."



Capt. John Trylch

When the dust settled, Trylch and his men saw that the 107 mm rocket had landed just 40 meters away - precisely where the convoy should have lined up.

"It was literally a stone's throw from where we were stand-ing," he said, shaking his head. "An angel was on our side

A landing and then a getaway

Thief Warrant Officer 3 Rob Carpenter, 37, of the squad-ron's Troop E, had been flying his OH-58 Kiowa Warrior in the early-April uprising called the "battle of Baqouba" northeast of Baghdad.

Flying in support of the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, Carpenter and his co-pilot saw insurgents firing rock-et-propelled grenades toward them. Suddenly one hit their

main rotor, knocking off four feet of one blade.

"We could feel the concussion," Carpenter said. "It was very violent. I wasn't thinking about anything else because I

had about seven seconds before I hit the ground."

In a crowded city neighborhood, they happened to come down — hard but safely — in the only open field around: a neighborhood cesspool. They could hear angry mobs and small-arms fire in the distance.

"We knew we needed to get away," Carpenter said. "I didn't want to leave the helicopter, but I didn't want to get strung up on a bridge, either."

Carpenter and the co-pilot ran through the muck and commandeered a civilian car, but they didn't know where to go. Then the "cavalry" rode to the rescue. Along came a convoy of troops from the 1st Squadron, 6th Field Artillery. "I saw Humvees screaming around the corner," Carpenter

recalled, "I said 'God bless Americal'

No April fool

apt. Steven Janko, a military lawyer assigned to the 1-4 Cav, keeps a reminder of his closest call sitting on his

On April 1, as he walked back to his office from the command bunker at MacKen-zie about 7 p.m., a shower



behind him and saw a 107 mm rocket nose down in the parking lot, about 10 feet from where he stood An 8-foot plume of smoke spewed from its tail - but the rocket didn't explode.

Janko ran into the office he shares with the squadron's chaplain, Capt. Gary Fisher, and his

Cant. Steve lanko assistant, Staff Sgt. Ed Baptist. "I said 'Guess what, there's a rocket outside!' " Janko said, "but nobody would believe me because it was April Fools"





Sgt. Anthony Troche, left, and Pfc. Jihoon Ham

No safety in ambulance

It's a good day when you hit a bomb and your only casualty is a bottle of iced tea.

Pfc. Jihoon Ham and Sgt. Anthony Troche, medics with the 557th Medical Company, learned as much in September, when a roadside bomb hit their ambulance as they convoyed from Mosul to Tikrit

The vehicle in front of them spotted the bomb, but Ham and Troche's ambulance had rolled just past it when the unseen insurgent detonated it.

unseen insurgent detonated it.
"I was kind of surprised," said Ham, 24, of Flushing, N.Y.,
who was driving. "It was a pretty loud boom."
The explosion flattened both tires and spun the ambulance

The explosion flattened both tires and spun the ambulance three-quarters of the way around. A cascade of shrapnel pierced the patient compartment in the rear, but no one was there.

One jagged piece of metal penetrated the cab four inches from Troche's head. Another shattered a container of iced tea between them in the front seat. "The whole vehicle was smelling like peach iced tea," said

Troche, 28, of Hormigueros, Puerto Rico.

The stunned medics looked at each and realized neither had been hurt.

"I said, 'Whoa, that was close!' "Troche recalled. "After that, we could say we survived that one. We're good to go."

Dangerous roads

netimes close calls come in bunches.

That's a lesson Spc. Joshua Burgess, 25, of Arlington, Texas, learned Aug. 1 on Main Supply Route Grape, a highway east of Samarra that was frequently attacked during the summer when insurgents controlled the city.

The patrol of three Humvees from Company B of the 1-4 Cav left that morning to check the route for roadside bombs: one of the most dangerous jobs on one of the most dangerous pade in the

Then his patrol found one.

A powerful "daisy chain" bomb made of three 155 mm artillery rounds tied together exploded underneath one of the other Humvees about 11 a.m. One soldier died instantly, and another lay mortally wounded, his legs blown off by the force of the blast. "Your world just goes to [expletive] when that happens,"

"Your world just goes to [expletive] when that happens, Burgess said.

Burgess, in the next Humvee, blacked out briefly and suffered a concussion.

But the patrol regrouped. A call went out for a medical evacuation helicopter for two injured soldiers, and to the "Bulldawg" troop headquarters for help. Capt. John Trylch led a

relief convoy that included three MI Abrams tanks. They recovered the bombed-out vehicle, packed up, and rolled back toward their camp, FOB MacKenzie.

Trylch decided to try a trick a sergeant first class from an engineer platoon had suggested to him that

had suggested to him that morning. He ordered the almost indestructible tanks to drive along the edges of the road, where insurgents typically bury the bombs. The sergeant said a tank would bury a bomb enough to limit the death and destruction even if it did blow. The trick worked.

Spc. Joshua Burgess

An even more-powerful bomb, this one with four 155 mm shells, exploded under a Humvee 10 minutes after they rolled out. The driver and a passenger suffered only minor injuries.

"The tanks saved those guys," Trylch said later. "Even though it was a tragic situation, it was a lucky day."

— Steve Liewer

- Steve Liewer

Close: Safety within inches

CLOSE, FROM PAGE 4

Occasionally someone finds excuses to dodge a mission. But soldiers know their buddies depend on them. It doesn't happen often.

"If you don't go, someone else has to," said Spc. Steve Wetmore, 20, of Union City, Pa., and the 9th Engineers.

Sgt. Orville Whitlock, a squad leader with the 9th Engineers' sappers, survived an RPG

strike on his Humvee May 5. The detonating charge whizzed just inches from the heads of the two men in the right-side seats evaloding against the front windshield in a shower of safety glass. All five occunants suffered

shrapnel wounds.
Still he rides on
patrols — sometimes in the same
Humvee, which
still is scarred with
a large hole where
the grenade hit.

the grenade hit.
"Everybody's
scared. But you
can't be too scared

to function," Whitlock said. "I use the fear and the worrying about coming back as fuel to get through the mission."
"You have to keep your head in the

Spc. Shaun Stupavsky

Snc. Steve Wetmore

game," Benton said. "You can't fear death." Rarely do soldiers discuss these

Rarely do soldiers discuss these close calls with anyone back home. They don't want to worry wives, kids, husbands or par-

"I don't tell 'em anything - just 'everything's good, the weather's getting better,' " said Benton, who has a wife. Scharla and two mange, children hack home in Schweinfurt. Germany. "They already worry enough about me.

"You've got to candy-coat it," said Spc. Shane Stupavsky, 20, of Quincy, Ill., who serves in Trylch's troop.

Even among themselves, soldiers say, they

don't often talk much about combat once it's over. But there is an unspoken bond among troops who have been together in an especially hairy mission.

"Sometimes just a glance, a pause in a discussion, is worth a thousand words," Trylch said. With the 1st Infantry Division's deployment now almost three-quarters complete, troops are thinking more and more about getting home safely and need to stay focused on the mission at hand, soldiers said. Nearly 100 of the 22,000 soldiers

Nearly 100 of the 22,000 soldiers from the 1st ID-led Task Force Danger — which also includes brigades from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division and the North Carolina National Guard, plus many smaller Guard

and Reserve detachments — have been killed.

Ironically, there is a grim joy to war. Soldiers report a fierce adrenaline rush from combat, and they get to use the skills they've

trained at for years.

There's a certain pride

in surviving a tough scrape.
"Any soldier that's gone into combat has to be satisfied with what he's done," said Capt. Gary Fisher, the 39-year-old 1-4 Cavalry chaplain from Alexandria, La. "It's life-defining. It's very fulfili-

ing to have achieved

'mission complete.' "
He has twice been on convoys in which soldiers died from enemy attacks. He vividly remembers the pavement burning his knees, the sweat pouring from his head, as he prayed in the ear of an injured sergeant.

"I am most alive when I experience moments of combat," said Fisher. "It has a way of cutting away everything that's unnecessary for

life."
Some soldiers say they've already sensed the jarring difference between life at home and life in a combat zone.

"When I went home on [rest and recuperation], people were just griping and bitching about little things," Schmidt said. "They're not thinking about getting killed every day."

Dorr believes troops who have lived close to death have been changed in ways that they won't fully appreciate until long after they get home.

"There are certainly some people here who have seen some awful

things," he said. "You're either going to leave Iraq a better person or a worse person. But you're going to change."

"I think they understand," Fisher said, "that this is the defining moment in their lives."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



44I don't tell [the family] anything
— just
'everything's good, the weather's getting better.' They already worry enough about me. 91

Sgt. Jason Benton



44 When I went home on [rest and recuperation], people were just griping and bitching about little things.
They're not thinking about

every day. 77
Pfc. Joshua Schmidt

getting killed

First Stryker Brigade sent to Iraq honored

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL

The Associated Press

FORT LEWIS, Wash. - Clad in desert camouflage and standing at attention, members of the first Stryker Brigade sent to Iraq were honored Monday at a homecom ing ceremony after a yearlong denlovment

Hundreds of friends and family sat in the bleachers at Watkins Field snapping photos and talking excitedly. Though brigade mem bers have slowly been trickling ceremony was the first to honor the entire unit

The hour-long ceremony included comments from Col. Michael Rounds, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. He read the names of the 20 Stryker Brigade soldiers killed in Iraq.

"They have earned a special place in the history of the bri-gade. We will never forget them,"

The infantry brigade is an-chored by the Stryker, the Army's

vehicle. The eight-wheeled Stryker is widely viewed as a visible symbol of efforts to transform the Army into a faster, more agile fighting force.

The brigade was stationed in Mosul, Balad, Samarra and Dulu-

It conducted raids, reconnaissance and established security onerations incorporating Iraqi secu-

The post's commander, Lt. Gen. James Dubik, presented

including Spc. Joshua Miller, who received a Silver Star for helping free a commander who became caught in debris when the squad was attacked in Mosul. Miller also is credited with single-handedly repelling a 20-man assault and killing four insurgents.

At a round-table discussion following the homecoming, Rounds and other senior leaders and soldiers echoed sentiments of national commanders that the Strykers were a key to keeping the brigade's casualties to a minimum.

"It would be significantly high er if not for the equipment," said Lt. Col. Jay Flowers, commander of 3rd Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment.

Before coming home, members of the 3rd Brigade helped train their replacements, the 1st Bri-gade, 25th Infantry Division, a second Stryker unit from Fort Lewis, just south of Tacoma.

The 1st Brigade began deploying in October for a one-year mission. It includes more than 4,000 soldiers and 300 Strykers.

Red Cross says it paid another visit to Saddam

The Associated Press

GENEVA - The international Red Cross has visited Saddam Hussein again to check on his condition in detention, a spokesman said Wednesday

Muin Kassis, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Amman, Jordan, said he was not immediately able to give details of the visit, the latest in a series that the ICRC has been making to the former Iraqi president since he was captured by U.S. forces last December.

The ICRC team, which usually includes a doctor, has been see ing Saddam every six to eight weeks in a prison in Iraq, where it also visits other "high-value detainees

The last confirmed visit by the organization was in early Octoher The ICRC refuses to disclose details of his health or circumstances, but it has carried letters from him to his family.

Saddam underwent surgery to repair a hernia at the end of September and made a full recovery, a U.S. official said last month.

The U.S. military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Saddam's health was good "with no major ailments or con-

In July, the Guardian newspaner in Britain and Newsday in New York quoted Iraq's human rights minister, Bakhtiar Amin, as saying Saddam was being treated for high blood pressure and a chronic prostate infection and was suffering from a hernia

Saddam is believed to be held in an American-guarded facility near Baghdad International Airport.

An adviser to the Iraqi interim prime minister told a Kuwaiti daily Tuesday that Hussein is living like a king in U.S. military cus-



Five of the 15 commanders of Task Force Eagle meet Wednesday before a ceremony marking the disestablishment of the mission at Eagle Base in Bosnia-Herzegovina. From left they are: Maj. Gen. Robert Halverson, Lt. Gen, H. Steven Blum, Mai, Gen, James Mason, Brig, Gen, Richard Nash and Brig, Gen, Timothy Wright. Some U.S. troops will stay in country to support NATO operations, but all but 250 American troops will be out of the country within a few weeks.

Iraqi baby to return home

DAYTON, Ohio — A 14-month-old Iraqi girl who received free treatment in the United States for a possibly fatal growth in her neck began the trip home, about six months after her parents brought her to a U.S. military base in her homeland.

Fatemah Hassan and her mother took off Tuesday from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on a cargo plane. Maj. Ted Theopo-lis, spokesman for the 445th Airlift Wing, said the child would be

flown to Ramstein Air Base in Germany before returning to Iraq. Fatemah was diagnosed with a large hemangioma, a dense group of blood vessels that grows abnormally large.

Mom trucking Thanksgiving dinner to son

HARTLAND, Mich. - Yvette Boulton wants her son to get a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal before he's deployed to Iraq - so she's trucking the feast 761 miles to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Boulton will be on the road 13 hours so she can feed her son. Army Cpl. Jordan Keilman, 22, and 14 of his friends. The soldiers must re main within an hour of base so they could be called to Iraq. Keilman fought in Iraq from September to February.

The Fort Bragg holiday dinner was conceived a few weeks ago when Boulton called her son to tell him she would be bringing him dinner. She suggested he "invite a few friends."

Scholar sentenced for smuggling Iraqi artifacts

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A Providence resident and Middle East scholar has been sentenced to six months of home confinement for trying to smuggle 4,000-year-old Iraqi artifacts into the United

Joseph Braude pleaded guilty in August to attempting to sneak Joseph Braude pleaded guilty in August to attempting to sheak carved stone marking seals belonging to the Iraqi National Museum into the U.S. after purchasing them on the black market in Iraq last year. The 30-year-old Braude was sentenced Monday in U.S. Dis-trict Court in Brooklyn. He also received two years' probation and must pay \$2,000.

Mission's over for U.S. troops in Bosnia

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Strines

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia-Herzegovina

t was part reunion, part celebration. A look back at the past. A hopeful glance into the fu-

A ceremony nine years in the making took place Wednesday at the sprawling base camp in the Balkans that thousands of Americans have called home during the last decade

Task Force Eagle - the primary U.S. mission in Bosnia — is no more.

"This ceremony officially means mission complete," Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, told a gymnasium full of American and allied personnel — or at least as full as it gets in Bosnia-Herzegovina these days. "And mission accom-

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Severe furled the mis-sion colors as Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright held the flag. And, just like that, the mission was, at least symbolically, completed.

U.S. soldiers will still be on the ground for a short time. But all but about 250 will be home in plenty of time to spend Christmas with their families. The remainder will continue serving under NATO auspices, even as the European Union assumes responsibility for the mission in country.

Stabilization Force, which would mark its eight-year birthday in December, won't make it that far. Its last day of existence is Dec. 2; that's when the EU officially takes over in a ceremony in Sarajevo.

Just about all the American contingent could be gone by then. Much of the current rotation - SFOR 15 - is already back in the States. A few hundred left Oct. 31. More flew out Nov. 15.

This rotation has been longer than most. Headed by the 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana National Guard, about 950 soldiers had been on the ground since March before the recent departures

That number is just a fraction of the 20,000 Americans who initially comprised the mission in December 1995. Bell, a brigadier general and assistant commander for the 1st Infantry Division at the time, was on hand as soldiers of the 1st Armored Division bridged the storm-strengthened Sava River to allow hundreds of vehicles to cross into the country.

'It was a sporting event for any army," marveling on the conditions that were overcome by the 1st AD, other Army units and the Air Force in get ting troops and supplies into the country. He said it took about 400 trains, 1,400 aircraft sorties, 440 buses and 250 convoys to get the initial equipment and materiel into Bosnia

Since then, countless tons have been shipped into the country as rotation after rotation of active-duty, then Reserve forces, served in Bosnia. Wright, the outgoing task force commander, estimated that 100,000 Americans have served here. More than a few of those served more than once.

The task force was first led by the Germany-based 1st AD. The 1st ID followed for a year, then gave way to the 1st AD again. After stints by the 1st Cavalry Division and 10th Mountain Division, the mission largely was taken over by the Army Reserve and National Guard. Most of their rotations were for six months.

Five former task force commanders were on hand for the ceremony, along with former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, who was the top enlisted soldier in Bosnia during the initial mission

"I think there's nostalgia," Bell said of the mission

ending. "There's no sad feelings." Bell said he believes the Army has made a difference in Bosnia and those who have served in the country should be proud.
"Soldiers of Task Force Eagle, past and present,

this is your legacy.'

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IN THE STATES

Bush orders massive additions to CIA

BY GREG MILLER Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - President Bush has ordered what may be a major expansion of the CIA, calling for the beleaguered agency to add thousands of new analysts and spies as part of an ongoing build-up in the war on terrorism, according to a White House memorandum released Tuesday.

But the directive set no timetable for the changes and offered no indication that the White House intends to ask Congress for the massive funding increase such a plan likely would require.

The plan was outlined in a memorandum delivered to CIA Director Porter J. Goss last week. In it, Bush instructed the intelligence chief to increase the number of analysts and spies at the CIA by 50 percent. The figure stunned current and former intelligence officials, several of whom said the CIA has not charted such an aggressive course of growth since its inception in the aftermath of World War II

Agency told in memorandum to increase number of analysts, spies by 50 percent

The CIA is thought to have an annual budget of about \$5 billion, and to employ more than 17.000 people, although actual figures are classified. Sources said the agency's clandestine service employs several thousand people, and that its analytic branch - known as the directorate of intel-is even larger

The Bush memorandum says the increases are to take place "as soon as feasible," and would be "subject to the availability of appropriations," Bush gave the agency 90 days to develop a "detailed budget and implementation plan."

Recause of the caveats contained in the document and the low-key, mysterious manner in which it was released by the White House, the memorandum was greet-

ed with a mixture of enthusiasm and skenticism in the intelligence community.

"I wouldn't overreach" in attaching significance to the document, said a U.S. intelligence official. "The way it's being looked at is a codification of some of the things the agency has been doing before. It builds on some of those measures and adds to them.

The official acknowledged that the 50 percent targets are significantly higher than anything previously articulated by the administration, but said the issue of timing was not addressed.

"The question becomes 'When?' and there doesn't seem to be any time frame. the official said.

The White House provided no additional details on the memorandum, one of several

Tuesday as part of a series of measures act-ing on recommendations from the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks.

A White House official said the direc-tives represent an effort by Bush to "take additional steps under his own authority responding to recommendations made by the

9/11 commission. These are partial steps."
A senior administration official cautioned against interpreting the memo as a shift in policy or a preview of new budget requests. It is more of a "refocusing, official said. "This is the president's at-tempt to be responsive to the 9/11 commission recommendations, to put further specificity to what he agreed to in August, official said.

While the expansion could require new money, the senior administration official said some of the growth could be covered with existing money. "It's fair for us to say that since 9/11, and during the president's first administration, these budgets have grown significantly," the official said.

Stories differ in Wis. hunter shooting case

Victim, suspect each say other party fired first shot

BY ROBERT IMRIE The Associated Press

HAYWARD, Wis. - The man suspected of shooting six hunters to death and a survivor agree that the tragedy began with a confrontation on private land. But they sharply differ on what happened

Survivor Lauren Hesebeck told investigators Chai Vang. 36, of St. Paul. Minn., turned around after a verbal exchange and started shooting his rifle from 40 vards away.

But Vang told Sawyer County investigators he began firing only after one of Hesebeck's hunting buddies, Terry Willers, shot at him with a rifle from about 100 feet away and missed.

Vang, a Hmong immigrant from Laos, also claimed the hunters taunted him with racial slurs and warned him he would be reported to law enforcement for being on private land, according to a document filed Tuesday.

Hesebeck's version, contained in the same statement, makes no mention of that type of language or verbal hostility, other than saying Vang used profanity at one point

Hesebeck, who was released from a hospital Tuesday after treatment for a shoulder wound, told investigators Willers shot at Vang after Vang fired first

Both accounts agreed that Vang shot the others as more people from the deer camp arrived at the scene, summoned by Hesebeck using a walkie-talkie to call for help.

Vang said he continued firing as the group scattered, and at one point chased one of the hunters and shot him in the back, only to find the man had no gun, the document states

Authorities have said there was only one gun among the victims

According to investigators, it's believed Vang fired at least 20 shots.



THE STAR TRI

auren Hesebeck stands on a porch at his home in Rice Lake, Wis., after being released from the hospital Tuesday. Hesebeck was one of two hunters wounded and six killed following a confrontation with another hunter trespassing on private land.

No one answered the door at the Hesebeck home in rural Rice Lake on Tuesday. Members of the fami-ly and another victim's family planned to talk with reporters Wednesday

Sunday's shootings occurred after Vang got lost while hunting, climbed into a tree stand on private property and then got into the confrontation with Willers and others hunting with him.

The victims were part of a group of about 15 people who made their annual opening-weekend trip to the 400-acre property co-owned by Robert Crotteau and Willers

Killed were Crotteau, 42; his son, Joey Crotteau 20; Al Laski, 43; Mark Roidt, 28; Jessica Willers, 27; and Denny Drew, 55, all from the Rice Lake area Terry Willers, Jessica's father, remained hospitalized Wednesday in good condition.

Vang was arrested about four hours after the shootings as he emerged from the woods with his empty semiautomatic rifle. Five people died in the woods: a sixth died Monday in a hospital. Two others were wounded

Circuit Judge Norman Yackel ordered Vang jailed Tuesday on \$2.5 million bail. He ruled that evidence submitted to him was sufficient to hold Vang on suspicion of murder and attempted murder, pending the filing of formal charges.

Viacom reaches deal with FCC to end probe

BY EMILY FREDRIX

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Viacom will pay a record \$3.5 million to settle dozens of federal investigations into alleged indecency on TV and the radio, and introduce delays in more live programming to h catch troublesome material before it gets on the air. The settlement, announced Tues-

day, closes investigations dating back to 2001. One involved shock jock Howard Stern, and two focused on Opie and Anthony, who lost their Viacom-owned New York radio show after it featured a couple purporting to have sex in side St. Patrick's Cathedral

Greg "Opie" Hughes and Anthooreg Opie rugnes and Antino-ny Cumia went silent after the 2002 show until October, when they joined with XM Satellite Radio, where Federal Communica-tions. Commission regulations don't apply. Stern is joining the Sirius satel-

lite network in January 2006, when his contract with Via-com-owned Infinity Broadcasting

expires. Viacom, which also owns CBS

and MTV, agreed to implement a companywide compliance plan aimed at preventing future viola-tions of federal indecency statutes. The plan includes installation of audio delay equipment at radio stations that broadcast live programming and training employees about indecency laws.

"This consent decree allows us to move forward and to focus our efforts in this area by serving our viewers and listeners with tech-niques to safeguard live broad-casts," Viacom said in a statement.

Viacom said the public, not the government, should decide what it is exposed to on the air

But agreeing to the settlement makes that impossible, says John Dunbar, a project manager at the Center for Public Integrity, a nonpartisan government watchdog group. Becoming more acquies-cent with FCC oversight may make good business sense, Dunbar said, but that means potentially los-ing freedom of speech.

Regardless of what the content of the speech was, I'm not sure that it's such a great thing for there not to be a debate on it," Dunbar

Tests find no mad cow disease

WASHINGTON — A five-day mad cow disease scare that briefly rattled the cattle markets and raised concerns among some beef eres has been put to rest after sophisticated chemical tests on a suspected animal showed no sign of the brain-wasting allment. But the "flase positive" in the initial screening again raised questions of the properties of the proper

tions about the Agriculture Department's testing procedures.

Some critics argued that the department had unnecessarily alarmed the public and beef markets by disclosing the inconclusive

preliminary results last week.

Influential health scientist dies at 100

WASHINGTON - Ancel Keys, a University of Minnesota public health scientist who invented the K rations consumed by millions of soldiers in World War II, discovered that saturated fat was a major soluters in worful war 1, discovered that saturated aid was a final cause of heart disease and championed the benefits of the Mediterranean diet, died Nov. 20 at his home in Minneapolis. He was 100. No cause of death was reported. He was still at work earlier this year, analyzing data from his fandmark epidemiological study, begun in 1958, of 12,000 middle-aged men in Italy, the Greek islands, Yugoslavia,

the Netherlands, Finland, Japan and the United States.

Air travelers still pack prohibited items

Security tips

Tips from the U.S. government for engers heading to the airport

Guns and ammunition cannot be carried into an airplane cabin. Unloaded firearms can be checked if they are placed in a locked, hard-sided container and declared to the airline. Ammunition can be checked if it's in suitable nackaging

- such as the manufacturer's package ■ Shoes do not need to be re moved, but doing so may save time. Even footwear without metal in it may have to be screened a second time for a bomb
- Don't make any jokes suggesting a threat to security - screeners take them seriously.
- All passengers must remove outer coats and jackets — including suits, sport coats, athletic warm-up jackets and blazers — for X-ray be fore walking through the metal de-
- Travel with unwrapped pre-ents, because if they set off an alarm they'll have to be unwrapped

■ Put undeveloped film in carryon baggage; the machines used to screen checked bags will damage film

■ Passengers have a right to be screened a second time in a private The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Many air travelers in the United States apparently still haven't received the word about leaving their handguns and knives behind when they go to the airport. Not to mention the

chain saws, land mines and gunpowder, too, More than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, air travelers still are trying to carry thousands of potentially deadly items on planes every month

The Transportation Security Administration, which took over security screening at 450 airports in February 2002, said Tuesday it had confiscated 15.6 million prohibited items, including 2,150 guns, 75,241 boxcutters and 4.7 million knives through the end of October.

Billie Vincent, former security chief for the Federal Aviation Administration, blames stupidity and forgetfulness in most cases. "How do you deal with people who have to know about 9/11 and,

even inadvertently, are still trying to get knives onto planes?" he

In October alone, screeners seized ammunition 2,000 times, along with 170,940 knives and 73 guns.

TSA spokeswoman Amy von Walter said local law enforcement officials have arrested people caught with prohibited items in some cases. It's up to local prosecutors to decide on criminal charges, she

A college student who hid bags of boxcutters and fake bombs in the lavatories of four Southwest Airlines jets last year pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor as part of a plea bargain with prosecutors. The student, Nathaniel Heatwole, said he was trying to expose

what he called gaps in aviation security. By taking a dangerous weapon aboard an aircraft, he could have been charged with a federal felony that carries a possible 10-year prison sentence. Government officials believe the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers used box-

cutters to commandeer the four jets that crashed that day. Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, ranking Democrat on the House aviation subcommittee, said most of the seized items are trivial.

Some have not been so innocent. The TSA has found knives disguised as lipstick, a radio with a handgun inside, a loaded gun stuffed into a teddy bear. Several people have tried to bring chain saws onto planes

Cuddly contraband

Federal Transportation Security 15.6 million prohibited items at the nation's airports between February 2002 and the end of October 2004

Knives 4.7 million Box cutters 75,241 Guns 2.150

on board

found and

confiscated these

security checkpoints.

A loaded handgun was discovered inside this cuddly bear as it was X-rayed in Orlando, Fla., on July 12, 2003.

Items that Brass knuckles didn't make it Screeners at Minneapolis International Airport

Lipstick prohibited items at

lighter

SOURCE: Transportation Security Administration

They haven't found everything, though,

DeFazio, who has reviewed classified reports on the screeners' performance, said they have trouble finding artfully concealed ob-

Better X-ray machines are on the market, DeFazio said, but Congress hasn't given the TSA enough money to buy new ones



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Turkey Tidbits

Early explorers gobbled up wild turkeys

Salt Lake Tribune

Refore slicing into that Thanksgiving turkey on Thursday, take a moment to consider the bird's international journey to reach the dinner table.

Though native only to the Americas, the domesticated turkey, which has come to be known as the broad breasted white, vovaged back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean with stops in Spain and England in the 1500s. From its original home some where in Central America, culinary connoisseurs helped spread the turkey across Europe before returning it to the New World to eventually become the focal point of Thanksgiving.

whether the original turkey subspecies exists today, the search for those elusive birds one day could provide genetic information to help their plump, grocery store-bound relatives.

European explorers encountered the strange birds in the early 1500s as they probed into Central America, where indigenous residents raised the domesticated creatures throughout the region, according to "The Wild Turkey: Its History and Domestication" by A.W. Schorger.

"The turkey was domesticated in Central America and Mexico and hauled back by some of the early Spaniards," said Harley Shaw, a retired turkey researcher who formerly worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Shaw said though researchers may never know how the first turkeys were tamed, the birds are easy to domesticate. The crops that ancient farmers planted may have attracted wild turkeys, which were in turn were captured and incorporated into the food supply

Schorger noted that by 1511, Spanish royalty had requested turkeys be brought to Europe for breeding purposes. This New World delicacy quickly spread by the mid-1500s to places such as Italy, France, Germany, Norway and England

The popularity of the creatures prompt-

ed the Pilgrims to include turkeys in the supplies sent with the first colonists who founded Jamestown, Va., in 1607, Schorger wrote. Early colonists apparently shunned the plumper-looking wild turkeys roaming the area in favor of their own bree

As the colonies evolved in the 1630s, the turkey was strictly for the tables of the well-to-do. A century later, the turkey moved from upper-class fare to commoners meat. Soon after the pioneers pushed into the Western frontier, the turkeys followed. The hirds reached the West Coast in the 1830s, according to Schorger.

In 2003, the nation consumed about 274 million turkeys, including about 46 million at Thanksgiving alone, according to the National Turkey Federation.



Two heritage, or "heirloom," turkeys eye each other at S&B Farm in Petaluma, Calif., earlier this month. In the last three years, farmers in California and across the country have been raising a growing number of turkey breeds that were originally consumed by the pilgrims and have become nearly extinct.

Old turkey breeds resurfacing

Gourmet cooks flocking to poultry farms growing specialty birds

BY DAISY NGUYEN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - It's a turkey with a proud heritage, so much so that gourmet cooks seem to be flocking to poultry farms this Thanksgiving season to buy one

Mary and Rick Pitman say the phone at their Fresno-area farm has hardly stopped ringing since summer. The question is always the same: Is there still time to reserve a heritage turkey for Thursday's "There's such a huge demand for these turkeys, I've never seen anything like it," said Mary Pitman. Even a heritage bird's price of \$3 to \$7 a pound a factory farm-raised turkey costs \$1.40 a pound
 doesn't faze the callers.

Consumers with discerning palates say it's a small price to pay for a bird they find tastier and more flavorful than the modern, mass-produced turkeys found in supermarkets. People from as far away as Florida have been calling Sylvia Mavalwalla's farm in Petaluma to order one, and those who live nearby insist on driving straight to her ranch to pick up a fresh bird.

With word about heritages spreading, the Pitmans say they expect to sell 6,000 birds this year, 5,000 more than last year when they first started raising them. Mavalwalla said she will sell 110, up from 45 last year.

About 274 million turkeys were raised in the Unit-

ed States in 2003, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and most of them were mass-produced Broadbreasted White turkeys

A census conducted in 1997 by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy found only 1,335 heritage turkeys in the country. This year, about 20,000 were raised, according to Slow Food USA, which launched a campaign in 2001 to reacquaint Americans with the birds

Preservationists believe revived interest in eight arieties of turkeys such as the American Bron Bourbon Red and Narragansett will help keep the food supply diverse and save the breeds from extinc-

People who want to try a heritage bird may have missed out this year if they haven't already ordered, but Lesser says they can reserve early for next year. That way farmers can plan the year's stock.

Heritage turkeys take eight months to fully develop, while a commercial turkey has about a 3-month life span. The Broadbreasted White turkeys were developed in the 1950s to come to market faster and fatter, and they've lost the ability to run, fly and breed naturally

The Pitmans say their turkeys are fed a high-protein grain diet and are given four times as much roaming space as factory-raised turkeys. As a result, their live weights range from 7 to 20 pounds compared with 27 pounds for an average Broadbreasted White

Turkey dinner to go

Americans' busy lives fuel rising tide of takeout Thanksgiving meals

By ESTES THOMPSON The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. - Everyone wants a nice Thanksgiving spread, but not everyone has the time — or culinary know-how to cook the traditional turkey, dressing, veggies and desserts and get them on the table togeth-

Those who don't head to the grocery store.

More and more customers are buying complete Thanksgiv-

ing meals to take home, according to retailers and food-trend Nearly perts. every grocery store with a deli now offers the meals, which consumers can order in advance and nick up on Thanks. giving eve.

Last year, Fresh Market's 44 stores from Florida to Virginia sold a few hundred complete meals.

"This year, we sold several thou-sand," said spokesman Eric Blaes-ing. "We actually sold out.

resh Market other chains Fresh declined to disclose exact numbers of holiday dinners sold, citing reacompetitive sons. But all said sales are on the rise

"The aging baby boom population is really driving a lot that " said

Mindy McBain of Gainesville. Ga. McBain writes for "The Shelby Report," a grocery trade publication that tracks trends in the Southeast and Southwest.

"People don't have time to cook like they used to," McBain said. "The stores that are making a success out of it are providing high-quality turkey meals."

Fresh Market began offering complete meals last year. Blaes ing said. The Greensboro-based chain charges \$49.95 for a meal that serves six to eight people.
"With these big dinners, you

have to order everything in ad-vance," he said. "We buy products from vendors and assemble it at the store Fresh Market has "some real-

ly good pies," Blaesing said, and customers have said they don't



Rico Arenas, head chef at Whole Foods Market in Raleigh, N.C., debones turkeys Monday. The store sells a portion of turkey for those who don't want to buy a whole bird or breast. More and more customers are buving complete Thanksgiving meals to take home. according to retailers and food-trend experts.

> tell their guests they are store-bought.

"What's interesting to me personally is you think about Thanksgiving being the home thing ... no more, baby," he said, "I would love to know how many people don't tell people" that dinner was ordered in.

Beware of exploding cell phones

Battery overheating may cause injuries from blast, fire

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Curtis Sathre said it was like a bomb going off. His 13-year-old son Michael stood stunned, his ears ringing, his hand gushing blood and his body covered in black ash.

In a split second last August, fragments from Michael's exploding cell phone had hit him between the eyes and lodged in the ceiling of the family's home in Oceanside Calif.

Over the past two years, federal safety officials have received 83 reports of cell phones exploding or catching fire, usually because of incompatible, faulty or counterfeit batteries or chargers. Burns to the face, neck, leg and hip are among the dozens of injury reports the agency has received.

Ceived.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is providing tips for cell phone users to avoid such acidents and has stepped up oversight of the wireless industry. There have been three voluntary battery recalls, and the CPSC is working with companies to create better battery standards.

"CPSC is receiving more and

more reports of incidents involving cell phones, and we're very concerned of the potential for more serious injuries or more fires," said agency spokesman Scott Wolfson.

U.S. phone makers and carriers say most fires and explosions are caused by counterfeit batteries and note that in a country with some 170 million cell phone users, the number of accidents is extremely low.

"Is it a problem? It has turned up, you bet. But statistically it is extraordinarily rare," said John Walls, spokesman for the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association.

"But the fact that it has happened certainly has the industry's attention."

Some consumer advocates say the cause goes beyond bad batteries making their way to the market.

They point to the increasing pressure on battery and phone makers to fit more capabilities into small instruments.

"If you're cramming more and more power in a small space, what you're making is a small bomb," said Carl Hilliard, president of the California-based Wireless Consumers Alliance, which has been tracking incidents of cell phone fires and explosions.

Though legitimate batteries can go wrong, there is a greater chance that poorly made, counterfeit ones will lack safety devices to detect overheating or overcharging.

The lithium-ion batteries found in most cell phones can overheat if, for example, heat vents are cov-

The CPSC is trying to determine if improved venting is enough by itself to ensure safety.

Hoping to address problems that may lie beyond their supply lines, members of the wireless industry began collaborating last week with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a standard-setting organization, to create voluntary design and performance standards for all batteries.

Michael Sathre, who is expected to fully recover from his wounds, was picking his fully charged Verizon LG cell phone off the floor when it exploded by his side. The family chose not to sue and has instead allowed the companies involved and a con-



Michael Sathre, 13, holds the remains of his cell phone at his home Friday in Oceanside, Calif. The phone's battery exploded in August, wounding his hand.

sumer group to come to their house to study the damage in the hopes it won't happen to someone

"It took my son two months to decide to even be near a cell phone," said his mother, Cris. "But he needs one."

Cell phone tips

Wireless companies and U.S. federal safety officials

offer cell phone safety tips:

When removing battery, avoid putting it in contact with

metal, such as keys or coins.

Don't expose battery to water or extreme tempera-

Avoid crushing battery or dropping it against hard surfaces, especially when fully charged.

■ If bought separately, make sure battery and charger are compatible with the phone model. Check that components are not manufactured for phones sold in other countries.

■ Buy parts from an authorized dealer, carrier or legitimate outlet, rather than secondhand dealers or off the Internet.

Battery recalls announced this year by the Consumer Product Safety Commission: Jan. 23: Kyocera Wireless

Corp. recalls about 140,000 batteries used in some Kyocera 7135 Smartphones.

June 24: Verizon Wireless

recalls about 50,000 batteries used in some LG-branded TM-510 cell phones.

about 1 million batteries used in some Kyocera Slider, K400 (Phantom, Blade and Rave models) and 3200 Series cell phones. More product details are also available online at http://www.cpsc.gov

From The Associated Press

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Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestamps

Stars and Stippes (USPS 0172527 is published daily (except Christmes and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stippes contrate office, \$25 OHLS, LSW, Stars Stay, Weehnhapton C. 2006-5, 500; Peri-This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of De

This neespaper is authorized for publication by the Department of De-tines for members of the Milling Services receives. However, the con-leted of the SARSA and SIRVES are sufficient, and are not to be consid-ient to the SARSA and SIRVES are sufficient, and are not to be consid-ient to the SARSA and SIRVES and the sufficient to the support of the s

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Spread hope, not fear

I have repeatedly seen the television network FX touting the made-for-TV movie "Smallpox," and it brought up some issues I feel should be brought to the forefront of people's consciousness. In several advertise ments, the network uses phrases like, "It's real — it just hasn't happened yet." The fact that anyone would make such a movie that can reach the majority of the American pop ulace is upsetting enough to me, but to add commercials like that one is adding insult to

injury FX, like so many other media outlets, is preying on fear to get higher ratings. Statis-tics have shown that many Americans drink more, eat more chocolate and "comfort foods" and have been nut on anti-denressants since Sept. 11, 2001, due to the fear in which so many live. Whether the threats are real or perceived, Americans are still shak-en by 9/11 and the possibly of further terrorist threats upon which the news media keep harping.

I am an Air Force officer, as is my husband, who is deployed to Iraq, I would be the last one to say that there is nothing to fear and that "all is well" in our world, but I also would be the last to cause neonle more unnecessary fear. We in the military take orders from our elected civilian government and, though we may not always like or agree with those orders, follow them. However, we see our greatest task as trying to instill hope in Americans and others around the world

Movies such as the one FX plans to resent undermine that hope. After Sept. 11, the news media kept showing the Twin Towers crumbling, including close-ups of people jumping from the buildings and others in the area crying, screaming and cov-ered with ash. What happened was real, and I believe it is the news media's obligation to report it, but they did not need to rub the noses of victims' families and friends in continuing pain in the process.

This past election showed that we are divided as a country. We do not need to be di-vided and afraid. We need to stick together, try to give one another strength and keep up hope for our future.

It is not my place to tell others to write to any publication or to not watch "Smallpox," but I feel it is my duty as an American citi zen and U.S. military officer to call out the wolf among the sheep when I see one.

Capt. Erin Macri Colorado Springs, Colo.

Housewife has full-time work

I take umbrage with the comment "The two reservists profiled were both unemployed housewives happy to have a full-time job" in the letter "Deployment is disorganized," (Nov. 22). This comment displays both ignorance and intolerance by the writer.

I know that my wife (one of the two reservists) would rather be at home nurturing and caring for our 9-year-old daughter than spending 18 months in Italy and Afghani stan. The fact that we did not opt to outsource upbringing/parenting to some third party should not be ridiculed or questioned.

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"unemployed" housewife seems to spend quite a few hours at the Reserve unit either on orders or doing "flag time" (working without remuneration). She also volunteers in our daughter's classroom, was an officer in the parent-teacher-student associa tion, has coached youth sports and, when called upon, works part time for Northrop-Grumman Information Technolo gies during simulation exercises for the military. This is in addition to doing maintenance and unkeep on a house, managing the family budget, providing subsistence for all of us and taking care of two dogs. Talk about multitasking.

This is also the second time she has been mobilized in the past two years, and while it is inconvenient for our family, we also recog nize the vital importance of the mission and support our soldier wholeheartedly.

I am not sure why a "professional woman" with a full-time job and four children with one on the way would think less of my wife's decision to stay at home. What is worse is that these snide comments were used by the writer as a segue to her real issue: her perceptions on the competence of the Southern European Task Force Reserve Augmentation Unit. In the future, if she has any comments to make I hope that she cuts to the chase and leaves my family out of it. Kevin G. Mason

Grafenwöhr, Germany

Another lesson for Chirac

I fully agree with the writer of the letter "History lesson for Chirac," (Nov. 22), and would like to add another short history lesson for French President Jacques Chirac. America has never, and never will, ask

for anything in return for what it gives, or sacrifices in behalf of freedom or aiding those denied it. As far as I am concerned, France can kneel and pray to God all day, every day, and thank him for the blessed U.S. servicemembers. Had it not been for American fighters rescuing them from the Nazis in World War II, the French would all be speaking fluent German by now

The French have received something in return for "turning their backs" on us every

time we have asked them to do their part in NATO, which has served to protect them since WWII. They have the privilege of shopping in our exchanges and commissaries, something that retired servicemembers

have to pay taxes for the privilege to use.

"Thanks, but no thanks," Chirac. America doesn't need "fair-weather" allies. Kenneth A. Cox

Stuttgart, Germany

'Locked down' in Kuwait

I tend to call my mother once a week to let her know how things are going here in Kuwait. She always asks me, "So, how's Kuwait?" I politely say, "I don't know." She lets me know that I've been stationed here for almost three months, and I then let her know that I've been "locked down" because of "security reasons" for almost three months

I've never had any real faith in the intelligence community prior to Sept. 11, 2001, and definitely lost what little I had afterward. Now, servicemembers are locked down indefinitely on their respective com-pounds under the guise of "security reasons." Nothing specific.

My question is this: Why can a 25-year-old female civilian or contractor leave her work area at 2 a.m. in her new Suburban by herself and run to McDonald's, unarmed, without having to worry about the 'security" concerns we do? Then, on the way out, ask the field grade officers and senior noncommissioned officers present if we want anything as if feeling sorry we can't go? Are we servicemembers all being "locked

down" on our compounds due to someone not wanting to have to deal with the small percentage of those who are sure to make fools of themselves? What about the 95 percent who know how to conduct themselves in public and would like to see what our Kuwaiti neighbors have to offer us culturally? I

> Michael T Finn Jr Kuwait

I found very interesting two recent ac-tions by the Republican leadership in the U.S. Senate and the House. In 1993 the Republicans adopted a rule that stated simply no one indicted for a crime could serve as a committee chairman, but would have to tem porarily step aside. However with Senate Majority Leader Tom DeLay facing possible indictment in Texas, well, they just changed the rule to "convicted." That was easy enough. I guess it's: Do as I say, not as I

GOP's morality questioned

Then they slipped into the spending bill a provision that would have allowed Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla., two committee chairman, and their assistants access to individual income tax returns. Hello, that's a violation of privacy. And this is the party that, after the election, trumpeted its moral superiority. Boy I can't wait to see what happens the next four years. Hypocrites.

John Lambert Baumholder, Germany

By GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

Leaving Iraq not as simple as not going in

BY MICHAEL KINSLEY Los Angeles Times

as there ever before been a war that so many people disapproved of but so few wanted to stop? Have the reasons for starting a ever been so thoroughly discredited without turning into reasons for ending it?

The Vietnam-era anti-war movement had an agenda: Bring the troops home. Or, in two words - suitable for a picket sign or a T-shirt — "Out now."

What seems to be today's anti-war position - it was a terrible mistake and it's a terrible mess, but we can't just walk away from it — was actually the pro-war position dur-ing Vietnam. In fact, it was close to official government policy for more than half the length of that war

Today's anti-war cause doesn't even have a movement, to speak of, let alone an agenda. It consists of perhaps 47 percent of the citizenry - the ones who voted for John who are in some kind of existential opposition to the war but don't know what they want to do about it.

Meanwhile, U.S. soldiers die by the hundreds and Iragis by the thousands in a cause these people (and I'm one of them) believe to be a horrible mistake

Kerry spent months untangling the knots of his Iraq position while tangling new ones even faster. He pounded George W. Bush over the phantom weapons of mass destruction, and he mocked Bush's confusion of Osama bin Laden with Saddam Hussein. Kerry said, famously, that Bush's invasion of Iraq was "the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time." So was he in favor of ending it? No, his position was that he would try, but not promise, to bring the troops home in four years. Four years! U.S. involvement in World War II lasted 31/2

Bush had a good point when he wondered how, as commander in chief, Kerry could ask American soldiers to die for the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time. Of course, that problem does not vindicate Bush's belief that Iraq is the right war in the

right etc. etc. etc.

But Bush's apparently sincere belief does relieve him from needing to explain why he doesn't want the war to end now. Kerry's studiously confused position was not, or not iust, a political stratagem. It was an accurate reflection of the views of his constituency. Most of them deplore the war, but only a tiny fraction favor an immediate pull-out. Any one who opposes the war but isn't ready to demand peace needs an answer to the guestion, "Why on Earth not?"

There are answers, possibly even adequate answers. But none of them shine with the kind of obvious truth that makes the question unnecessary, let alone uninterest-ing, which is how it is being treated. The answers fall in two categories, each associated with a secretary of state.

The Henry Kissinger answer is, in a word, credibility. A superpower that announces a goal and gives up without achieving it will not be super for long. In the end, President Nixon and Kissinger added five years to the length of the Vietnam War, and we lost it anyway. Did that add to our superpower



Capt. Jon Stewart, commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment, gives out a stuffed toy to a kindergarten student at a school in As Sadiyah, Iraq, on Sunday.

credibility? Well, maybe. In the Kissingerian world of High Strategy, a reputation for pigheaded stupidity can be almost as valuable as a reputation for wise persistence. .

The Colin Powell answer goes by the nickname "Pottery Barn," referring to the alleged policy of that purveyor of yuppieware that "if you break it, you own it." In fact, Pottery Barn's breakage policy is much kinder and gentler than that. But it's certainly true that a well-brought-up foreign policy doesn't occupy a country, wreck it and move on like a rock band checking out of a hotel room. The question is whether at this point we're actually helping to tidy up, or only making a higger mess.

An American general in Vietnam famous-ly said, "We had to destroy the village to save it." This has become the definitive expression of the macabre futility of war. Last week, we destroyed an entire city in order to save it (progress!), but our capacity to find that sort of thing ironic seems to have become shriveled and harmless.

Modern-day pilgrim's journey no walk in the park

have been in Plymouth, Mass., where the Pilgrims landed (after they first stopped at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod)

Bill Tammeus



Mostly I was just passing through, having previously visited Plymouth as a tourist But it's impossible to be in historic places without imagining what occurred there So while I was in Plymouth, I thought about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving That eventually meant I thought about many of us. because many of

The idea of pilgrimage did not start with the English Separatists who came to the New World in 1620. (Nor did the idea of setting aside a day to give thanks.) As the Catholic Encyclopedia notes, the concept of pilgrimage has roots tens of thousands of years old in the idea of local deities with limited au-

"Hence," the encyclopedia says, "when some man belonging to a mountain tribe found himself in the plain and was in need of divine help, he made a pilgrimage back to the hills to petition it from his gods.

To be a pilgrim means to be on a journey. to be searching for a place, a person or even (and maybe especially) for God — some-thing or someone to help make sense of who we are and what we're supposed to be about To live an unexamined life is never to be a pilgrim

But pilgrimage can also be more interior in nature, as is the case with someone in my extended family. She has been on a pilgrim age recently back into her childhood to see if she could find the origin of a destructive behavioral pattern she's experienced through much of her life: When she's enraged, she often simply shuts down emotionally instead of understanding her anger.

Her pilgrimage, aided by a counselor, has led her to various events in her childhood that gave her a deep fear of abandonment. result of that fear, she wouldn't risk abandonment but would curl up, shut her eves and hope everything either goes away or turns out all right

Because of the discovery she made on her interior pilgrimage, she's now trying to fix

We live in what's often called a "therapeu-tic culture." in which concepts of evil and sin get truncated into something less scary. In our narcissistic age, the culture encourage es us to imagine that to fix ourselves all we need is the right therapy, self-help books, counseling, meditation techniques and, most of all, the right medications. Some combination of those things will allow us to reach the goal of our personal pilgrimage.

And what does the therapeutic culture tell

us that goal should be? A personal nirvana, in which all our needs and wants are met So when we start a personal pilgrimage, it

helps to remember that no matter what the culture says, the true goal is to make us whole (precisely the goal of my family member) so we can be in healthy relationships The goal is not to find someone or something to blame for why we aren't whole, though it may help to know that, and counseling and medications may be needed along the way.

The religious pedigree of the pilgrimage

idea is impressive. Islam requires adherents who are healthy and can afford it to make a nilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia birth. place of their faith. The Christian Crusades in medieval times were first dreamed up as a way to make the path from Europe to Jerusalem safe for Christian pilgrims. And Buddhists make pilgrimages to

Kapilavastu, Benares and other places connected with Buddha's life.

While many religions are familiar with humans going on pilgrimages to seek the di-

vine, Christianity posits the idea of God making a pilgrimage in search of - and to rescue — humanity through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. One reason this story has such pull on the hearts of so many people is its audacity — describing God as a pilgrim seeking out people

But, of course, the idea of sacred pilgrimage also gets twisted at times. In early Christian history, pilgrimages were meted out as punishment. This disciplinary system sent countless people off on journeys of terrible hardship to make up for their crimes or sins and to find redemption

However strange and intricate the history

of pilgrimage, it is an idea deeply embedded in the human psyche. We sense some emptiness in us or a profound desire to experience what the ancient Celts called "thin places, where eternity touches time, and we set off on our searches. It's an honorable instinct that deserves our homage at Thanksgiving.

Mallard Fillmore



IN THE WORLD

Ukrainian premier declared election winner

BY JIM HEINTZ The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Election officials on Wednesday declared Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych the winner of Ukraine's presidential election, sharpening a crisis sparked by the opposition candidate's allegations that the vote was brazenly fraudulent.

Yanukovych won 49.46 percent of Sunday's vote, against Viktor Yushchenko's 46.61 percent, the commission said in announcing the final results.

Petro Poroshenko, a pro-Yushchenko lawmaker, said that "the members of the Central Election Commission have taken on themselves the responsibility for a coup d'etat."

"Now the streets will speak.

Now the people will speak," he

Numerous fistfights broke out between lawmakers after the results were announced.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday the United States cannot accept the results of elections in Ukraine, which the opposition says was marred by fread

Powell warned "there will be consequences" for the United States' relationship with Ukraine as a result of the developments in the former Soviet bloc nation.

A huge crowd of Yushchenko supporters has gathered in central Kiev over the past three days to push for the election results to be overturned and Yushchenko declared the winner. Within minutes of the commission's an nouncement, some protesters began heading from their encampment on Kiev's central avenue to the presidential administration building.

The building was the scene of a tense standoff Tuesday night, when protesters faced a phalanx of shield-wielding riot police.

Outside the election commission, throngs of Yanukovych supporters celebrated by drinking vodka and shouting their candidate's name.

Inside, pro-Yushchenko lawmakers chanted "Shame! Shame!" and Yanukovych's supporters applauded.

No Yushchenko supporters were seen outside the building, but there were fears that the two sides eventually could clash, with the official announcement of the results heating emotions in both camps.



Thousands of demonstrators waving Ukrainian flags gather Wednesday to protest alleged fraud in the presidential elections on the main square of the Ukrainian capital Kiev.

Three freed hostages, from left, Annetta Flanigan of Northern Ireland, Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, and Shqipe Hebibi of Kosovo, leave the Kabul palace of Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday. The three LLN werkers were freed Truesday after being held hostage.

Freed U.N. hostages ready to rejoin families

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three U.N. workers freed by kidnappers in Afghanistan rejoiced at their freedom Wednesday and said they were sustained through 27 days of captivity by thoughts of their family and friends.

Looking tired but happy a day after their release, Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan from Northern Ireland and Shqipe Hebibi of Kosovo met privately with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

They also had a tearful reunion with colleagues at a U.N. residence and made a statement that cast no light on their mysterious abduction, but made clear their yearning to share the "wonderful feeling" of freedom with loved

ones.
"The hope of getting back together with them kept us going," Flanigan read from a sheet of paper, Nayan and Hebibi at her side.

Later Wednesday, Nayan said farewell to officials at Kabul airport before boarding a U.N. plane. Officials did not divulge his immediate destination.

Officials insist they did not agree to pay a ransom or free any jailed militants to secure their release. They have declined to identify the kidnappers or to explain how the hostages became free.

Diplomats: Iran seeking exception to uranium enrichment activities

The move comes on the eve of

BY GEORGE JAHN

VIENNA, Austria — Iran is seeking a last-minute exception to its commitment to stop all uranium enrichment activities by demanding the right to operate dozens of centrifuges, diplomats said Wednesday.

The Iranians have told the International Atomic Energy Agency—the U.N. nuclear watchdog—that they want to operate about 24 of the centrifuges "for research purposes," the diplomats said

They have asked the IAEA to exempt that equipment from agency seals meant to ensure the enrichment program — which can be used to make nuclear weapons — is completely at a standstill, one of the diplomats said.

an IAEA board meeting that will examine Iran's compliance to international demands meant to reduce suspicious about its nuclear activities. Among them are calls for a suspension of all enrichment and related activities — something Iran agreed to earlier this month in a deal with European negotiators.

A senior EU diplomat who is

As senior Exportant with its also a delegate to the board meeting said the European Union was resisting the demand, which it viewed as contravening a Nov. 7 Paris agreement negotiated between Iran and Germany, France and Britain, on behalf of the European Living and Senior S

That deal commits Tehran to full suspension of enrichment and all related activities while the two sides discuss a pact meant to provide Iran with EU technical and economic aid and other concessions.

Iran said Monday it froze all uranium enrichment programs, weakening a U.S. effort to refer Tehran's suspect nuclear activities to the U.N. Security Council. Secretary of State Colin Powell,

in Egypt for an international conference on Iraq, says America and Iran could restore relations one day, but only after Iran has changed course on terrorism and nuclear development.

"It is not in the best interest of international relations for there to be a permanent enmity or animosity between two states," the outgoing secretary told ABC on Tuesday.



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Blair accused of using fear as political tactic LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair faced growing accusations

Wednesday that his government is playing politics with fear and using the threat of terrorism to boost its chances of re-election. Political rivals are outraged at comments by Cabinet minister Peter

Hain, who insists Britain would be safer under the current Labour government.

"Ha is trying to create a climate of fear in this country which I think

"He is trying to create a climate of fear in this country which I think is a very dangerous thing to do," said Michael Ancram, foreign affairs spokesman for the main opposition Conservative Party. "... He is playing party politics with an issue which really should be above and beyond party politics."

From The Associated Press

China executes man who slashed children

The Associated Desca

BELJING — A man who slashed 25 children with a kitchen knife at a grade school in eastern China was executed Wednesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Jia Qingyou, 36, had appealed his sentence at the Shandong High Court, but it upheld the original ruling, saying the Sept. 20 crime was "especially cruel and the results were especially serious," Xinhua reported.

were especially serious," Xinhua reported.

Jia also held a 9-year-old girl hostage for an hour before he was captured by police.

25 attacked with kitchen knife at grade school

Xinhua earlier said Jia was the father of a girl at the school in Ying County. He had a quarrel with another local resident and looked for the person at the school when he dropped his daughter off.

When he couldn't find the person, he began attacking the children with a kitchen knife, Xinhua said. Twenty-five children were wounded in the attack. "The method of committing the crime was especially vile and caused great harm to society," the high court was quoted as saying in its Nov. 4 ruling.

In the worst recent school violence, an employee with a history of schizophrenia killed one student and slashed 14 children and three teachers on Aug. 4 at a Beijing kindergarten.



November 19 2004

The American Thanksgiving holiday is traditionally a time for reflection, fellowship, and the giving of thanks. I can't think of a better time for us all, a long way from home and family, to reflect on the many things we have to be grateful for.

V/e can be grateful for the profound difference we are making in the lives of others here in Iraq. Freedom has taken root and has begun to grow. Your courage and your commitment have given freedom a chance. For the rest of your lives, each of you will know that you went into harm's way to give others a chance for a better life.

As members of a coalition, we can all be grateful for the support and resolve of our partners here in Iraq. Together we will succeed, and in succeeding we will help make the world not only a safer place, but a better place.

V/e can be grateful for our comrades here, the men and women with whom we work each day to achieve our noble and historic mission. The individual bonds we are forging here will be with us forever. And, we can be grateful for the sacrifices of those who have given their lives that others, both here in Iraq and at home, can live in peace.

Finally, we can be grateful for the love and support of our families and loved ones whose sacrifices and strength underpin our every success.

Sincerely

George W Casey, Jr.
General, United States Arm

Settlement urged

VIENNA, Austria — Lawyers representing the familier of 155 skiers and snowboarders killed in an alpine cable car fire in 2000 were pressing Austrian officials Wednesday for the more than \$155 million in compensation for the rela-

tives.

Attorneys from Austria, Germany and the United States said they planned to deliver a "ultimatum" to a commission working to determine a cash settlement for those who lost loved ones in the Nov. 11, 2000,

They are seeking \$65 million from the Austrian government; \$65 million from Gletsherbahnen Kaprum Capital AG, the company that operated the cable car, and \$26 million from the province of \$2alzburg and the city of Kaprun where the disaster occurred.

The victims were headed for a day of flu on a glacier atop the Kitzsteinhorn mountain near Kaprun, a popular ski resort 60 miles south of Salzburg in the heart of Austria's Alps, when the cable car bringing them to the summit caught fire in a tunnel.

Only 12 people managed to escape the crowded car as at turned into a fireball, sucking fresh air into the tunnel and creating a chimney effect that produced heat so intense only the reinforced steel skeleton of the car was left intact.

German breaks record

FRANKFURT, Germany — A 38-year-old with degrees in psychology, education and computer science needed only 11.8 seconds to calculate the 13th root of a 100-digit number in his head, setting a new record, organizers said.

Onlookers with electronic calculators needed more time to solve the problem that Gert Mittring figured on his own, with two umpires checking the time, at a math museum in the small German town of Giessen near Evanletur in western Germanus

Frankfurt in western Germany. But his feat will not be in the Guinness Book of World Records, because the book no longer recognizes root calculations of random numbers due to the difficulty of standardizing the challenge, spokesman Sam Knight said Wednesday.

French anguish

PARIS — General Electric employee Nadine Meslin says dealing with computer software in any language is tricky, but it's even worse when you're French and the jargon is in English

So what's the answer? Sue! French employees of a GE branch that makes medical equipment, tired of struggling with company e-mails, manuals and meetings in English, took their fight to court on Tuesday.

The employees claim English has become the main language in their branch of GE in recent years for instruction manuals, company e-mails and meetings. Older employees, hired when English was not a requirement, find it particularly hard to adapt, they claim

From The Associated Press

PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

Pregnant sister shot

CA SACRAMENTO — A 19-year-old man was arrested over the weekend on suspicion of shooting his pregnant 21-year-old sister to death and critically wounding his brother-in-law

Police said they were told by relatives at the scene that the 19-year-old had a fistfight with his sister's 24-year-old husband, then got a handgun and shot him four

At some point, the man allegedly shot his sister once in the chest, police said. She and her unborn child were pronounced dead at the scene by firefighters.

Police did not release the names of those involved.

Constitutional conflict

AR LITTLE ROCK — A federal judge said a 2003 Arkansa law intended to shield minors from pornographic material in stores and libraries violates the U.S. Constitution. The law required books, magazines and videos containing material "harmful to minors" to be kept separate from other displayed material. The judge said the law restricted access and display of non-obscene material.

Breezy future

MA HYANNIS—A long-anticipated federal report on a proposed wind farm in Nantucket Sound says the project would provide significant benefits, with little long-term environmental damage.

The 4,000-page draft report prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, released Tuesday, indicates the project would likely cause less environmental damage than many have feared.

The 26-page executive summary also cites benefits such as reduced emissions from power plants burning fossil fuels, an increase in year-round jobs and diversification in New England's fuel supply, which is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas.

The report's release has started a 60-day public comment period, during which four public hearings will be held.

The \$700 million proposal that Cape Wind Associates proposed three years ago for Horseshoe Shoal has drawn fierce opposition from boaters, business owners, fishermen, wildlife protection groups and property owners.

Housing project burns

CA ALAMEDA — For many residents of the Bessie Coleman Court apartments, this was going to be the first holiday season in a long time when they would be able to cook their own turkey dinners.

Many of the formerly homeless women and their children had recently moved into the transitional and permanent housing in Alameda, and the place was just starting to feel like home.

But a fire late last week destroyed their modest homes. As quickly as flames and smoke spread through the 15 small apartments, more than 20 people were sent back to the brink of homeless-



nace

"I'm kind of worried that people might throw in the towel because something like this can be so discouraging," said Elaine de Coligny, executive director of the Building Futures With Women and Children, one of the nonprofits that operate the housing project. "We're about trying to end people's homelessness."

Making room for stores

EXINGTON The graves of 18 horses, including Kentucky Derby winner "Plaudit," may be exhumed to allow two retailers to build stores. Developer Patrick Madden asked the city to rezone 58 acres of the property to rezone 58 acres of the property with the property of the pro

Crackdown on crabbing

SAN FRANCISCO — State game wardens out to nab illegal crabbers in the San Francisco Bay have seen it all: Dungeness crabs stuffed in hubcaps, backpacks, purses and secret compartments. They have heard it all, too, including lines like "Those aren't my crabs in the back of my truck"

Saturday night was no different. The first driver the wardens pulled over at Municipal Pier in San Fran-



On the lookout

A snowy owl is perched on a chimney top in Hazleton, Pa.

cisco opened his trunk to reveal a single legal red rock crab in a bucket. But further inspection turned up a black backpack crawling with six illegal Dungeness crabs.

an infraction that could end
up costing him more than \$650
— and pointers on how to tell a
Dungeness crab from a rock
crab, a distinction he clearly
already understood, seeing he
had stashed the Dungeness in a
backnack.

Change to tradition

NC WILMINGTON — Security concerns at a city water plant are threatening a holiday tradition in which residents decorate a centuries-old oak.

Security consultants, as required by homeland security laws, found that a fence is necessary around the plant to keep it safe from terror threats.

The proposed fence would prohibit people from gathering around the tree, as they have been doing every holiday season since 1928.

Many city officials said they want to try to preserve the tradition if possible.

Others consider the tree an eyesore.

"That is an ugly tree," council member Jim Quinn said of the oak, which has been kept upright by a utility pole since being damaged in a 1985 storm. "Just because you have been doing it a long time doesn't mean it is the best thing you could be doing."

DNA analyst fired

MD GERMANTOWN—An analyst at Cellman's DNA testing laboratory was fired for allegedly falsifying data. Cellman's Lew world's largest private DNA testing firm, says the falsification occurred in only 20 tests, but says considered the analyst well-benear the analyst well-benear the constitution of the Consti

Contractors killed

IN KNOXVILLE—EDD Technology, a munition scleanup and security contractor, confirmed that two employees were killed in Iraq last week. Aaron toversen, 38, and David Randolph, 33, died during an insurgent attack, to their military convoy near Baghdad, raising the company's fatality to the intervention of the past year. EDDT specializes in unexploded ordto the U.S. military, Meet excellent the properties of the properties of the ployees have served in the military.

Wrench in sewage plans

HOOKSETT — Plans to expand sewage plants in two New Hampshire communities are on hold because of decreased oxygen levels in the Merrimack River. Pollution in the Merrimack

Pollution in the Merrimack River is increasing because of the population boom in southern New Hampshire. Treated sewage pumped into the river is driving oxygen levels down — choking fish and other aquatic life.



Please, help me cope Arthur-Lovington's Chase Coleman left, after losing to Stockton, 18-13, in the 2004 Illinois High School Association Class 1A Football Playoffs semifinals in Arthur. Ill.



Dedicated to Christmas Danny O'Sullivan secures a cable around the trunk of Dallas' civic Christmas tree outside of Dallas City Hall.



Wet charity case From left, United Way President Jason Holmes, Campaign Chair Rocky Gill and Board Chair Leo Rossler, all of United Way of Tyler/Smith County jump into the pool at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas, as part of a deal for meeting a fund-raising goal,



Yummy Snack Digger, one of Elizabeth Chambers' hamsters, eats part of a hot dog during the Terryville Lions Club-sponsored health and safety fair at the Lyceum in Terryville, Conn.



Road skiing With fog and mist in the air, Mike Tarnow roller skis down Kroupa Road on Old Mission Penin

near Traverse, Mich.



Smiling for a good cause Ashley Hopson, 12, right, is having a good time along with other Damville High School Junior High students delivering almost 2,000 canned goods in an assembly line to the pantry at the First Baptist Church in Danville, Iowa.

Prices on the rise

DC WASHINGTON — Plans for a baseball stadium in Southeast are heating up the area's real estate market Real estate agents said prices for rowhouses around the site have risen from \$200,000 to \$240,000 in the past six months. Critics of the planned \$440 million stadium fear it will push poor residents out of the area. City officials said they're setting aside affordable housing.

Back on the job

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Unionized hotel workers in San Francisco agreed to return to work following an eight-week lockout, dealing a major boost to the city's tourism industry on the eye of the busy holiday season.

About 4,000 maids, bellhops, cooks and other hourly wage earn ers returned to their jobs Tuesday while contract negotiations continue. Mayor Gavin Newsom announced.

Newsom said the group representing 14 luxury hotels agreed to end the lockout of union workers for two months. Negotiations were to resume after Thanksgiving.

Warming the bench

DE WILMINGTON — The state will spend between \$500,000 and \$600,000 for improvements to the heating system at the New Castle County Courthouse Since the building opened two years ago, workers and visitors have complained the 14-story building gets too cold in the winter. The state will try to recoup the cost from the firm that designed the building

Packed prisons

KY LOUISVILLE — Ken-tucky's prison population has exploded by 600 percent since 1970 and will keep growing because of "irrational" penalties enacted by lawmakers, according to a study. University of Kentucky law professor Robert Lawson, who wrote Kentucky's penal code, says the state's budget for housing prisoners has risen from \$7 million to more than \$300 million since 1970 and is threatening to bankrupt the system.

Malpractice protest

MD HAGERSTOWN ens of physicians in Washington County have postnoned elective surgeries or temporarily closed their offices to protest rising malpractice insurance pre miums. Protest organizers say 50 doctors are participating and they've been joined by physicians at Prince George's Hospital Center. State lawmakers say they'll meet this week to discuss the issue.

Penalty pushed aside

TALLAHASSEE - A judge temporarily halted a recently approved state constitutional amendment that would revoke the license of any doctor who commits three acts of medical malpractice The circuit court judge sided in part with hospitals seeking to clarify the measure through the Legislature or the courts before it is implemented. The amendment was approved by 70 percent of voters this month

State workers get raise

RI PROVIDENCE — Gov. Don Carcieri has approved nearly \$350,000 in raises for some midand high-level state employees.

Those receiving the raises include top managers in the Departments of Administration and Environmental Management. Most raises go to lower-grade employees. The pay changes took effect last Friday, according to The Providence Journal.

The largest raise appears to go to Steven Wright, superintendent of state parks. He's to get \$12,500, which bumps his salary to \$73,000. Officials said Wright has assumed additional duties, including super-vising the DEM's Web site.

Flu shots on the way

TN NASHVILLE — Tennessee is getting 137,000 more flu vaccines, the state health commissioner said. The additional doses will go first to residents in long-term care, then to hospital employees who care for patients and people in high-risk groups.

Bike messenger killed

NEW YORK - A bicycle messenger was killed when the door of a delivery truck opened in his path, knocking him

to the ground, police said.

The accident happened shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday when the 42-year-old man, whose name was not released pending notification of his family, was making a delivery on Eighth Avenue between West 48th and West 49th streets, police said.

The passenger door of a truck parked on Eighth Avenue opened in his face, sending him sprawling head-first onto the pavement.

DMV tester arrested

CA REDWOOD CITY — A Department of Motor Vehicles employee has been arrested on suspicion of fondling seven teenage girls during driving tests. according to authorities. Calvin Hoang Cat, 37, will be charged with 14 misdemeanor counts in connection with inci-

dents that happened from July through September, said Steve Wagstaffe, chief deputy district atey for San Mateo County. "He was fondling the private areas of victims while the test was being conducted," Wagstaffe said.

"Most were just 16, and all were taking their first test."

Escape plan foiled

TAMPA - Three jail inmates and another man were arrested this week after sheriff's deputies uncovered a plot to smuggle guns into the jail and escape, officials said.

Ernesto Ibarra, 21, was arrested Wednesday as he attempted to buy guns from an undercover sheriff's deputy, according to the Hillshorough County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's intelligence unit had been tipped to the plan and conducted a sting operation.

Ibarra was supposed to buy the four weapons and pass them along to an inmate who worked outside at the facility, deputies said. The inmate was then supposed to smuggle them inside to Ibarra's brother and two other men, deputies said.

Stories and photos fFrom wire services

FACES

NFL looks to McCartney for super show

Paul McCartney will headline the 2005 Super Bowl



president of media

halftime show as the National Football League goes mainstream after the controversy over this year's show "There's nothing bigger than

being asked to perform at the Super Bowl." McCartney said in a statement. "We're looking forward to rocking the millions at home and in the stadium. "As one of the world's most be-

loved artists and incomparable live entertainers, Paul McCartney will deliver an inspirational performance," said Steve Bornstein, the NFL's executive vice

Actress apologizes for late appearance

Salma Hayek has apologized for missing the opening of a new theater in her hometown

saving she arrived late because of delays during the shooting of a movie she's making elsewhere in Meyico

Havek, who was born in Coatzacoalcos, Mexico, in the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, had planned to attend the inauguration of a new 17,000-seat municipal theater and stay for a concert by opera star Luciano Pavarotti Friday night.

The 36-year-old actress, who has been in the central state of Durango working on "Bandidas" with co-star Penelope Cruz, later issued an apology to Veracruz radio and TV stations

Hayek's screen credits include "Frida," "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" and "After the Sunset



Reach Music Awards announced

The Rickey Godfrey Band took home awards for best group album, song and group at the Carolina Beach Music Awards, which celebrated its 10th anniversary. Craig Woolard received awards for best male vocalist,

entertainer and collaboration at Sunday's five-hour show. Beach music's version of the Grammy Awards also featured appearances by Percy Sledge and Bill Pinkney of the Drifters

The awards, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., recognize achievement in the beach music industry, the distinctive brand of rhythm and blues associated with shag dancing, the Carolinas and the Grand Strand. Artists, entertainers. disc jockeys and fans received awards in front of some 2.000 attendees

Rocker wants his guitar returned

Former Poison singer Bret Michaels has asked fans to help him find his custom-made guitar, which was apparently stolen at

the end of a recent concert. Michaels' red-and-white Holden six-string electric guitar with a picture of a skull wearing a top hat disappeared during a Nov. 12 concert at McCool's bar in Valparaiso, Ind., ac-

cording to Michaels' Web site. The Porter County Crime Stoppers program has offered a reward of up to \$1.000 for information about the theft. A photo of Michaels with the guitar was posted on the singer's



Web site. A message said: "This guitar has a lot of sentimental value to Bret and we just want to get it back.'

Veteran actors land TV roles

Veteran actors Orson Bean and Charles Durning have taken on TV roles that touch on very different periods in their youths.

Bean, 76, who was blacklisted for a year during the anti-communist fervor of the 1950s, played a former communist sympathizer now suspected in an unsolved 1953 murder case in an episode of CBS' "Cold Case

Durning, 81, a decorated World War II veteran, apnears in CRS' "NCIS" as a man who claims to have murdered a fellow Marine while fighting at Iwo Jima in 1945

When a family of superheroes is forced into hiding in the suburbs, nothing is quite as normal as it appears in the animated adventure "The Incredibles." Bob Parr, aka Mr. Incredible, gives his wife Helen a hand around the house.

Superheroes' human side

'The Incredibles' fleshes out the mundane part of family life

44 He's this any

who is

absolutely

driven to keep

people safe.

and without

that he's

nothing.

Craig T. Nelson

Actor who is the voice

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press LOS ANGELES

uperheroes are typically loners, not family guys. The powers of Superman, Spider-Man, Batman make them outcasts from the very society they proclose confidants like Lois Lane, Aunt May and Commissioner Gordon.

But what if Wonder Woman was a soccer mom? Or the Hulk was a workaholic suburban dad who longed for the good old glory days? This is the comic book genre-teasing premise of "The Incredibles," the latest computer animated fantasy from Pixar that follows the impressive pedigree of "Finding Nemo," "A Bug's Life" and the "Toy Story"

"I just thought it was [a] silly idea for a superhero movie," said writer-director Brad Bird, a veteran of "The Simpsons" who also made the cult-favorite cartoon "The Iron Giant." "The concept is a superhero that is a little past his prime. Is he married? What if he married a superhero and who is that person?"

And what would it be like raising superpowered kids? Can you put the Flash in a corner for being hyperactive? Or ground a teenage Supergirl? These are the dilemmas facing Bob and Helen Parr (also known as Mr. Incredible and Elastigirl) as they try to live with their children as a quiet, normal family following a government ban on the display of superhuman powers.

In "The Incredibles," after a series of accidents in which superheroes caused more problems than they resolved, all so-called "Supers" have gone into a sort of witness protection program to shield them from would-be villains who may seek to exploit the ban on their abilities.

After Bird found that many of his projects had difficulty getting approval rom studios and he struggled to balance his career with his marriage and three sons he began to envision himself in the same position as his characters. "I was feeling that movies

were magical things that were grounded. The stories I was invested in were things that couldn't happen for very boring reasons," he said, "It's not that I saw myself as a superhero — more that I saw the mundane sort of grounding the fantastic."

He described "The Incredibles" as a mixture of his fa vorite things. "I love superhero movies and spy movies and action movies and I love my families, the family that I grew up in and the family that I have now with my wife and sons." Bird said. "It's all the stuff that I love rolled together into one crazy stew

Mr. Incredible is voiced by Craig T. Nelson, the sturdy patriarch from such movies as "Poltergeist" and the TV sit-com "Coach." He said that, like "Finding Nemo," this su-perhero story delves beyond jokes and action to explore the modern family dynamic. He liked the idea of a person who wished he could make a big difference in the world, but never realized what a big difference he made in his own little home.

"He's this guy who is absolutely driven to keep people safe, and without that he's nothing. He's lost. He's in a vacuum," Nelson said. "But he does have his family, and he's trying [to] hang on to them the best way he can."

While Mr. Incredible sneaks out at night to rescue people from minor disasters with his ice-blasting old friend Frozone (voiced by Samuel L. Jackson), his wife (voiced by Holly Hunter) juggles their teenage daughter Violet, eir troublemaking son Dash and their baby Jack-Jack. But a villain named Syndrome (Jason Lee) is on the

prowl - a one-time comic book geek who's using a fortune earned from inventing gadgets to round up and destroy the heroes he once idolized who shunned him as a pest.

"He is the non-superhero who is holding a grudge," said

Lee, who played a comic-book fanatic in "Chasing Amy." "Through those insecurities, he's trying to take over the world and thinks he's better than a real superhero. He's the guy who didn't get the girl in high school, and people made fun of him for being a nerd, and instead of being able to be happy with the power and money he has now, he has to shove it back into everyone's face Soon the whole family is united — a la

the Fantastic Four - in the fight against Syndrome's mechanized terror, where they learn to disarm weapons of cartoonish destruction while learning to cooperate with and trust one another. Each of the Incredibles has a power that is symbolic about their place in life, Bird said. Bird chose a non-actor for the voice of Vi-

of Mr. Incredible olet - essayist and pop-culture writer Sarah Vowell, whose wry gumdrop voice is familiar to listeners of the public radio show "This American Life."

If "The Incredibles" proves to be as big a hit as its Pixar predecessors, Bird said it will be for the same reasons that have made blockbusters out of movies of traditional comic-book heroes - the attention to the human part of superheroes.

"I think that people are fascinated by flawed gods," he said. "I think the idea of powerful beings that have weaknesses of character is something that has always been fascinating, part of mythology, and it's only natural that it would survive to this day under the guise of superheroes."

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

E-fficient shoppers buying gifts online

BY VERNE KOPYTOFF San Francisco Chronicle

When Karen Massa shops for Christmas she does so in front of a computer rather than at the mall. E-commerce has freed her from fighting the crowds and lugging gifts to Virginia because she has them shipped ahead to her mother's house.

assa's shopping preference is hardly an anomaly these days.

Online sales

between

Thanksaivina

and Christmas

are expected to

grow 20 percent

to \$13.2 billion.

That's down

from 31 percent

growth in the

preceding

holiday season.

Legions of consumers will turn to the Internet this year, spending more than ever.

"For the last two years, I've done almost all my shopping online," said Massa, West Coast recruit ing manager for a San Francisco law office. "It's increased every year."

Analysts expect e-commerce to grow substantial-ly this holiday season. But they don't anticipate the extraordinary rates of some past years, because of the industry's maturity and tight budgets in many U.S. households, according to Forrester Research.

Online sales between Thanksgiving and Christmas are expected to grow 20 percent to \$13.2 billion, Forrester predicts. That's

down from 31 percent growth in the preceding holiday season.

Companies are nevertheless enthusiastic. Most prominent retailers have overcome their early missteps on the Web and become profitable

The kinds of products that shoppers buy online have gradually expanded since sumer electronics and computer hardware dominated

Last year, apparel vaulted to the top category in terms of dollars spent, according to the holiday eSpending Report, compiled by Goldman Sachs, Nielsen/NetRatings and Harris Interactive. Clothes have gone from being a problem for some retailers because of the high cost of warehousing and shipping to a major source of sales. In a

sign of the category's ascendancy, Sears.com started selling clothes for the first time

this year. Walmart.com returned to selling apparel this year after shuttering that depart-ment in 2001.

"From the time we took it offline to the time we took it back we listened to customer feedback and tried to understand our customers bet-ter," Amy Collella, a spokeswoman for Wal-Mart's on-

line operations.
E-commerce comprises only about 5 percent of overall retail sales, according to analysts. Many people still prefer to shop in stores to see gifts before they buy them and for reassurance that they can return them if necessary with minimal has-

Others simply do their research online to compare prices before going to a bricks-and-mortar retailer.

Free shipping has become a staple of online shopping over the years. More recently, Web sites have given the bonus only to shoppers who spend over a certain amount, such as Amazon.com, where the minimum is \$25, with some exceptions



Paschal Brown, right, and his wife, Virginia load their car after shopping in Alton, III., on Wednesday, More Americans are expected to skip the crowded malls this holiday season and visit their favorite stores on the Internet.

E-tailing Group, a Chicago e-commerce re-search firm, said it is too soon to know how widespread the free shipping offers will be

She said that if they do come, they will probably kick in after Thanksgiving.

The same goes with product discounts, another way Internet retailers lure customers. However, Freedman noted that there is some indication retailers are more selec-

Many merchants, like Macvs.com and FTD.com, are offering reduced prices that are announced only to registered users by e-mail and for only a few days. If the shop-ping season starts slowly, however, retailers could be forced to cut prices more publicly. Freedman said.

tive this year than in the past.

The spread of broadband to about half of

all Internet connections in the United States is helping change the face of online shop-

Shonners with broadband shon more frequently online and spend more.

Some online retailers are reacting by offering more audio and video that would otherwise be too cumbersome for visitors to download through dial-up connections.

Most notably, last week, Amazon.com's ome page started offering five free short films starring well-known Hollywood actors. While not traditional advertising, the

tors. Write not traditional advertising, the films include products that viewers can buy during the closing credits.

Online shoppers appear to be procrastinating more each year. The peak in sales keeps getting later, according to a study by

Atlas DMT, an advertising technology firm.
Three years ago, online shopping peaked around Dec. 1. Last year, the busiest day

Tuesday's Market Summary

Hig	2-week		ıme			Las	st	Net Chg	% Chg	% Chg	52-wk % Chg
10,753,6	3 9,629	1.87 Dor	w Jones	Industrial	5	10,492.6	50	+3.18	+.03	+.37	+7.46
3,631.5	3 2.743	.46 Dor	w lones	Transport	ation	3,621.0	18 +	11.84	+.33	+20.42	+23,87
331.1	12 245	.42 Dor	w Jones	Utilities		331.9	92	+1.34	+.41	+24.36	+33.24
7.042.2	2 5,942	.32 NY	SE Com	posite		6,985.3	30	+5.51	+.08	+8.46	+15.78
1,373,6	8 1,066	.28 Am	ex Inde	X		1.376.	15	+8.75	+.64	+17.26	+27.31
2.153.8	33 1.750	1.82 Na	sdag Co	mposite		2,084,2	28	91	04	+4.04	+7.27
1.188.4	6 1.035	.28 S&	S&P 500			1.176.9	14	30	03	+5.85	+11.68
638.2	21 548	.29 S&	P MidC	ND.		634.5	51	+2.53	+.40	+10.16	+12.61
627.8	39 515	.90 Rus	sell 200	ΙÒ		624.5	53	+3.01	+.48	+12.14	+14.98
11,664.8	32 10,098	1.87 DJ	Wilshire	5000		11,562.5	93 +	11.61	+.10	+7.07	+12.25
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Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	Activ	/E (\$1 o	R MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (0	0) Las	t Chg
Lucent	343749	4.00	+.02	Nasd100Tr	895834	39.00	05	SiriusS	41691	97 6.7	1 +.74
Pfizer	317107	26.90	17	SPDR	403668	118.20	+.22	Intel	9107	78 23.3	773
		17.04								63 26.5	

Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	343749	4.00	+.02	Nasd100Ti	895834	39.00	05	SiriusS	4169197	6.71	+.74
Pfizer	317107	26.90	17	SPDR	403668	118.20	+.22	Intel	910778	23.37	73
TimeWarn	286353	17.94	+.48	SemiHTr	155185	33,27	48	Microsoft	614163	26.53	12
NortelN If	257501	3.17	09	iShRs2000		124.67	+.77	Cisco	441006	19.00	15
Motorola	210638	18.87	+.42	DJIA Diam		104.98	+.18	ApidMati	306263	16.90	20
GenElec	200987	35.81	28	iShJapan	53140	10.25	03	SunMicro	280947	5.18	06
Calpine	154417	3.26	+.12	OilSvHT	38538	85.75	+.91	Oracle	272206	12.70	+.02
Limited	139535	26.20	68	WheatR g	30434	3.60	06	BrcdeCm	255045	6.87	28
ExxonMbl	136253	51.20	+.29	IvaxCp s	29749	15.13	+.03	Loudeye	204130	1.53	+.42
Citigrp	135098	45.21	+.04	BemaGold	27477	3.43	01	AppleC	160753	61.27	08
KEY DEFENSE STOCKS KEY MUTUAL FUNDS											

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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.3488
British pound	\$1.93
Jananese ven (Nov. 26)	101.00
South Korean won (Nov. 25)	1.038.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.8678
Canada (Dollar)	1.1864
Denmark (Krone)	5.33
Egypt (Pound)	6.215
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7752
Hungary (Forint)	186.11
Iceland (Krona)	64.70
Israel (Shekel)	4.3937
Japan (Yen)	103.43
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	5.85
Philippines (Peso)	56.28
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.59
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6423
South Korea (Won)	1,065.70
Switzerland (Franc)	1.09
Thailand (Baht)	39.81
Turkey (Lira)	1.428.500.00
(Military exchange rates	are those
available to customers at mil	itary bank-
ing facilities in the country of	of leenance

facilities in the country of issuance Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Germany, the removement of the country of issuance south of the country of issuance south of the country of the country of the period of the country of the period of the country of the ying currency. All figures are form ying currency. All figures are form ying currency. All figures are form in the pound, which is represented in lars-to-pound, and the euro, which is lars-to-pound.

PRECIOUS METALS

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	INILICES! INAILS
ī	Prime rate5.0
ľ	Discount rate3.0
i	Federal funds market rate2.0
	3-month bill2.13
	30-year bond4.8
13	Sources: The Associated Press, Bank o

Money tip of the day

ents and Sensibility

Deciding what to itemize

NEW YORK - If you want to boost tax savings by itemizing,

now's the time to total the receipts and see if your expenses push you past the standard deduction Tax experts suggest compiling

receipts now while there's still six weeks left to bunch expenses (or schedule big-ticket procedures like root canals) within - especially if you're close 2004 to the edge.

The advantage of itemizing is that you can write off charitable donations and other expenses for maximum tax benefits

The hig figures to add up - as outlined on the Schedule A form for itemized deductions - are medical and dental expenses, taxes you paid, mortgage and investment interest, gifts to charity, casualty losses and miscellaneous deductions

Keep in mind that political contributions don't count, even if it's

an election year A word of warning: Consider that more deductions could result in greater scrutiny from the IRS.

Here's a breakdown of top

areas that can push you over the standard deduction edge: ■ Unreimbursed medical and dental expenses, deductible if they exceed 7.5 percent of your

adjusted gross income. ■ Taxes you paid. Here's where you get to choose between deducting state and local income taxes, or sales tax.

Mortgage interest on prima-ry and secondary residences.

■ Gifts to charity. Now's a

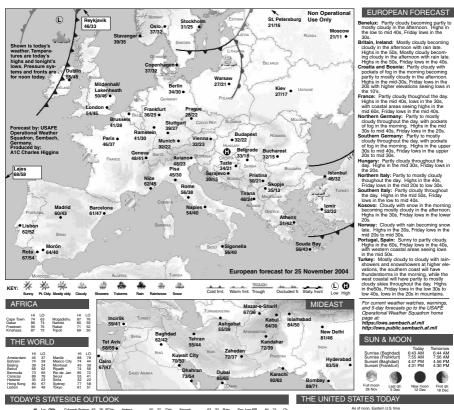
great time to clean your closets and donate old clothing and furniture to charity. And that extra set of wheels? This is the last year you can deduct the fair-market value of the car you donate. Start-

ing in 2005, if your car's worth more than \$500, your deduction is limited to the amount the charity actually receives for the car.

Casualty loss, if it's more than 10 percent of adjusted gross

■ Other miscellaneous deduc-

tions, in excess of 2 percent of ad-justed gross income. Looking for work? You can deduct job-hunting fees, even if you didn't get the job. Tax advice and preparation fees also are deductible



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> Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

al Taurus just when there is so much for our senses to enjoy! Appreciate the heavenly sights, smells and tastes. Do go slowly, though, putting half of what you think you can eat on your plate - your whole mood will be better. Tensions building toward the full moon tomorrow make social discourse more

interesting. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 25). Thrilling developments in your love life bring new hope for personal fulfillment. You are finally able to accept the idea that you deserve romance and adventure in your life - without guilt! Water signs (Pisces, Scorpio, Cancer) draw you in with tremendous affection. A mentor helps you deter

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When family gets together, exagger ations are made, inappropriate roles are designated, and old baggage is laid out on the table. And, somehow, this only makes things wonderful. There's nothing like home, sweet

mine a more direct career path in

January, bringing a windfall

home

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). One way to reduce stress is not to give yourself too much time to worry about things. Some adaptation of Parkinson's Law applies: The preparation of Thanksgiving dinner expands to fill the time available for its completion

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones expect something of you that just isn't what you're about now. When you stretch your idea of what others can add to your life, they do the same for you. Infinite possibilities are born out of your faith

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a saint called Theresa known as the Saint of the Little Ways, who believed in doing the little things well and with great love. This is precisely the attitude you adopt now, and you flourish be-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The burden of entertainment falls on you. You've had your share of shenanigans and will share the stories! Someone near and dear serves as a reminder of how not to behave. This person could use your guidance

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're the expert, but you **Holiday Mathis** still need help. Enroll

younger and older folks as multi-generational efforts are luckiest. At the end of the day you feel competent and it's nice to know that others respect vour abilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Verbalize your thanks, and show your appreciation in action. Your gratitude

ump Start

helps others discover their own. Your thoughtfulness and generosity toward those who don't have as much as you make you truly rich.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Family members may get jealous about who goes where and stays with whom. Happiness is adjusting your expectations. Take care of yourself first, and you'll have plenty of attention to give to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sure, you're fabulous under pressure, but who needs it? When you refuse to obligate yourself, you'll find yourself in the unique position to give joyfully, voluntarily and more than anyone expects of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A glorious realization: There are many ways that you've been provided sustenance for your physical, intellectual and spiritual life ways you couldn't have dreamed up had you been asked to. Someone out there cares.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An overriding feeling that the best is yet to come turns out to be more than optimism - it's true. In the meantime, you're doing all you can to give to those who would cry for what you take for granted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your domestic expertise and easygoing leadership style will create a comfortable vibe for everyone who congregates around you. You're not judging, and no one is judging you. Reing relayed makes romance nossible

Creators Syndicate

Get off the Swing, Twinky Hobbes and Calvin a















THEN THEY GET





YOU ADDED 97 PEOPLE

OUR GUEST UST

PASS THE CHECK



Š 5 IT'S GREAT HOW YOU







cause of it













7PA DAVES 11-25

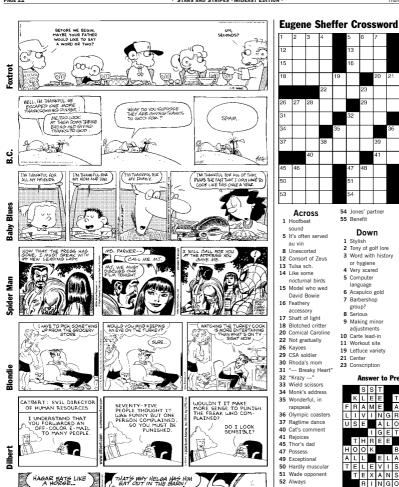
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KINDA

DISAPPOINTED

GARFIELD!



14 17 54 Jones' partner 24 Falco of "The 55 Benefit Sopranos" 25 Kennel din Down 26 Crazy 1 Stylish 27 Beige 2 Tony of golf lore 28 Dream prince? 3 Word with history 32 Entry in an index or hygiene 33 O.R. strings 4 Very scared 35 - volente 36 Bagel topper 5 Computer language 38 Nairobi's land 6 Acapulco gold 39 Get more 7 Barbershop magazines group? 42 Popocatepetl 8 Serious flow 9 Making minor 43 Arduous adjustments journey 20 Comical Caroline 10 Carte lead-in 44 Withered 45 Make up your 11 Workout site 19 Lettuce variety mind 21 Center 46 Half of 7-Down 23 Conscription 48 Court 31 "- Breaky Heart **Answer to Previous Puzzle** SST AITIA KLEE TRADE FRAME AGHAST 36 Olympic coasters LIVINGROOMSE ALONE IGET ANON ноок BORE ALL ELATE TELEVISIONSE TEXANS LOSES EVER RINGO



K Q T O Y F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY NERVOUS
ABOUT GIVING VACCINATIONS, THE YOUNG NURSE GAVE IT HER BEST SHOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N

Have a happy, stress-free holiday

Today is Thanksgiving, the time we pause to consider the blessings for which we are grate ful. In many homes across this great nation of ours, turkeys are being stuffed — just as the people who consume them will be later in the day.

But for many individu als, today and the holi-days that follow can be an intensely difficult time, triggering feelings of stress, loneliness and loss. If a person is prone to depression, these feelings can be further

magnified.

How can anyone feel depressed at this time of year? It's not that far-fetched. People who are separated from their families often feel isolated because they can't celebrate in the traditional way. Families who have lost a loved one during the year often feel the absence especially at this time. Others become depressed because they imagine that everyone else is enjoying a warm, idealized fami-

ly experience, while they are on

the outside looking in

Even people who enjoy the holidays can find them stressful. This is a time of year when peo-ple are stretched for time, energy and money — particularly the latter. They may become embarrassed because they can't cele-

brate the way they would like to celebrate, or in the style they have in years past

Some ways to ward off the holiday blues: ■ Keep expectations reasonable. Don't take on more activities than vou can handle financially or other-

wise ■ Don't overspend Plan a holiday budget and live within it. regardless of the tempta

Dear Abby

Do not run up credit card debt, or January will be like a

serious hangover.

And speaking of hangovers: Watch your alcohol intake. Re member, although alcohol seems to be a mood elevator, it is actually a depressant. If you have a

problem with alcohol, get whatever support you need to make it through the holidays

A final thought: If you're feeling down and want an instant the surest way to accomplish it is to do something nice for someone else. Call someone who lives alone and invite that person to dinner. Better yet, say, "I'm coming to get you, and I'll see that you get safely home." (Some older people don't drive at night, and those who do might prefer not to be behind the wheel after dark.) Give it a try! You'll be glad you did.

We have so much for which to be grateful this Thanksgiving Day. Those of you with a little time to spare, how about showing our gratitude to veterans by visiting a veterans hospital and raising the spirits of those who have served our country? Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

- Love, Abby

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

This place is a dump

WHEN THE FIDDLER

WAS SHOWN A

DIRTY HOTEL ROOM.

HE CALLED IT A

Unscramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words **EUQUE**

NILEN

VENCOL

JELING Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Family Circus

Jumbles: PAPER RABBI MODERN DENOTE What she turned into when she got Answer: divorced — A NAME "DROPPER"

JEFF Cms 11-25

"Will our company and all of us fit at the same dinner table, or will us kids get demoted?"

Thanksgiving prayer to share

Dear Readers: Today is Thanksgiving. If you know someone who is alone today, please invite him or her to share your Thanksgiving dinner, and make the occasion

truly special. While many of us have a great deal to be thankful for, some of us are less fortunate. We hope all of vou are able to find something for which you are grateful, no matter how small. If you can't think of anything, the following prayer may give you some suggestions

Thanksgiving Prayer (Author Unknown)
We come to this table today. O Lord, humble and thankful and

glad. We thank Thee first for the great miracle of life, for the exaltation of being human, for the

capacity to love. We thank Thee for jovs both great and simple — for wonder, dreams and hope; for the newness of each day; for laughter and song and a merry heart; for compassion waiting within to be



kindled; for the forbear-ance of friends and the smile of a stranger; for the arching of the earth and trees and heavens and the fruit of all three; for the wisdom of the old; for the courage of the young; for promise of the child; for the strength that comes when needed: for this family united here today

Of those to whom much is given, much is required. May we and our children remem-

her this. Amen.

Dear Annie: Please remind your readers once again to Keep Kids Alive Drive 25. This is a proactive measure to mobilize citizens around the country to respond to the problem of speed-ing in their neighborhoods. Work-ing with police departments, neighborhood groups, schools, municipal departments, civic groups and families, we hope to create safer streets for pedestri-

ans and motorists alike According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra tion, almost 175,000 pedestrians died on U.S. roadways between 1975 and 2001. Local roads, the streets right in front of most of our homes, are over twice as dangerous as highways per mile driven. Pedestrians are also three

times more likely to die when struck by a vehicle traveling 30 mph vs. one traveling at 25 mph For the sake of children and adult pedestrians and their fami lies, I ask communities around the country to join this campaign by visiting our Web site at

www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org. - Tom Everson Executive Director

Dear Tom Everson: We are pleased once again to remind our readers not to drive over 25 mph when traveling through residential neighborhoods. It's worth those extra few miles-per-hour to save a life. Annies Mallox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmallibox/comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Malibox, c/o Creators Syndi-date, 5177 W. Century Blvd., Sulter 80, Los Angeles, CA 50045.











SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-NBA: Detroit at Cleve-AFN-Sports and Radio, 1 a.m.—College bas-ketball: Preseason NIT semifinals, Wake Forest vs. Providence. **AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.**—College basketball: Maui Invitational championship game.

Maui Invitational championship game. AFN-Atlantic, 3:30 a.m.—College basket-pall: Preseason NIT semifinals, Michigan vs. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: PGA Grand Slam f Golf, final round (dld). AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College basketball: reat Alaska Shootout. Alabama vs. Alas-ireat Alaska Shootout. Alabama vs. Alas-

A-Anchorage (did).

ARN-Sports, 4 p.m.—College football: Con-lecticut at Rutgers.

ARN-Radio, 6 p.m.—NFL: Indianapolis at De-

roit.

AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 6:30 p.m.—NFL:
ndianapolis at Detroit.

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—NBA: Detroit at Cleveand (did). AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—Rodeo: Professional Bull Riding (dld). (uiu). o, 10 p.m.-NFL: Chicago at Dallas. AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 10:30 p.m.—NFL: Chicago at Dallas.

Friday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-World Strongman Cup (did). (d

na. AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m.—NBA: Minnesota at Indiana.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: New Jersey at
LA. Clippers.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball:

Tennessee women at Texas.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball:
Great Alaska Shootout, Utah vs. Washing-

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College football: West firginia at Pittsburgh (dld).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—College football: Coloado at Nebraska.

AFN-Davidie 8:20 p.m.—College football: Coloado at Nebraska. at Nebraska. -**Pacific, 8:30 p.m.**—College football: urkansas. **ports and Radio, 9:30 p.m.**—College : Texas A&M at Texas.

All times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Nov. 25 No. 21 West Virginia at Pittsburgh

No. 21 West Hundson Nov. 20 West Hundson Nov. 20 West Hundson No. 25 West No. 25 West No. 26 West No. 26 West No. 26 West No. 27 West No.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Tuesday

1. Wake Forest (3-0) did not play, Next; vs. pro Widen et Wedta-edday.

2. Kansas (2-0) beat Saint Joseph's 91-51.
Next: vs. Nevada, Monday.

3. Georgia Tech (2-0) did not play. Next: vs.
Arkansas-Little Rock, Friday.

5. Illinois (2-0) did not play. Next: at Siena, Saturdy, Vedenesday.

5. Illinois (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Oakland, Mich., Wednesday. land, Mich., Wednesday. 6. Oklahoma State (2-0) beat Arkansas-Lit-tle Rock 90-65. Next: vs. Sam Houston State. the Nock 39-65. Next: vs. Sam Huuston Jana-Saturday.

7. Connecticut (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Florida international, Puessay.

Florida international, Puessay.

State 73-53.
Next: vs. Georgia State, Friday.

P. Duke 2-0 did not play. Next: vs. Northolis of the North Carolina-Greensboro, Saturday.

State 73-91.

State 73-10-10.

State 74-10.

Sta State, Saturday. 11. North Carolina (2-1) beat Tennessee 94-81. Next; vs. Iowa. Wednesday. 4.61. Two the working (4.7.4) DeBt. Tennessee DeBt. 2.1. Louisylife (2.1) beat Canada 93.43. Next: vs. Stanford, Wednesday, 13. Manyland (2.5) beat Mercer 93.47. Next: vs. Stanford, Wednesday, 14. Mississippl State (4-1) beat Missou-rikanas City 92.44. Next: vs. South Ala-bama, Thursday, Dec. 2. Down 82.90. Next: vs. Tennessee, Wednesday, 16. Pittsburgh (1.6) did not play, Next: vs. Tennessee, Wednesday, 17. Next: Certificia State 6. Robert Morris, Wednesday. 17. North Carolina State (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Campbell, Friday. 18. Arizona (2-1) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Wednesday. 19. Alabama (2-0) did not play. Next: at Alabama (2-0) did not play. Next: at Alaska-Anchorage, Wednesday.
 Wisconsin (2-0) beat UC Santa Barbara 72-61. Next: at Pepperdine, Saturday.
 Notre Dame (2-0) beat Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne 73-45. Next: vs. Charleston Southern, Friday. iday. 1gton (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. 22. Washington (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Thursday.) beat Florida Atlantic 90-45. Next: vs. Providence, Saturday, 24. Gonzaga (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Idaho, Wednesday. 25. Memphis (4-1) beat Arkansas State 79-75. Next: vs. No. 13 Maryland, Friday.

Tuesday's men's scores

Albany, N.Y. 86, Siena 65 American U. 70, Wagner 49 Boston College 84, New Hampshire 62 Buffalo 87, Fairleigh Dickinson 84, OT Colgate 70, Cornell 56 Buffalo Sf, Falinleigh Dickinson 84 Ooglate 70, Cornell Spiace 16 Compate 70, Cornell Spiace 16 Falinleid Spice 16 Falinleid Spiace 16 Falinleid Falinle

Lipscomb 33, Savarinals St. 64
Maryland 93, Merce G
Maryland 94, Merce G
Mississippl St. 82, UMKC 64
Mississippl St. 82, Mississippl St. 82, UMKC 64
Mississippl St. 82, Mississippl St. 82, UMKC 64
Mississippl St. 82, Mississippl St. 82, WickGreensphore 78, Coastal Carplina 78
Mississippl St. 82, Miss Virginia Tech 102, Mu.-Easter W. Carolina 108, Emmanuel 64 W. Kentucky 71, Georgia 61 MIDWEST

MIDWES: Akron 77, Mount Union 47 Bradley 64, Loyola of Chicago 62 Cent. Michigan 68, Valparaiso 55 DePaul 53, E. Illinois 51 peraui 53, E. Illinois 51 Indiana 56, Indiana St. 52 Iowa St. 73, Drake 46 Kansas 91, Saint Joseph's Indiana 56, Indiana 51, 52 towa St. 73, Orable 46 bry St. 75, Orable 51 Kentucky 73, Ball St. 53 Michigan St. 104, Wis.-Green Bay 46 Nebraška 97, Ark.-Pine Bluff 40 Notre Dame 73, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 4! Purdue 66, Detroit 55 K. Missouri 81, Rockhurst 64 Wis.-Milwaukee 87, Wis.-Parkside 50 Wisconsin 72, UC Santa Barbara 61 Youngstown St. 78, Slippery Rock 80

Youngstown St., Sharingpery Nock bu Lamar 115, Arvis Christian of North Texas 76, N.C.-Wilmington 69 Oklahomas 15, 90, Ark.-Little Rock 65 Rice 67, Middle Tennessee 62 Stephen F. Austin 106, Concordia, Texas 99 Texas A&M 67, Trinity, Texas 48 Texas St. 73, St. Edward's 56 Texas St. 73, St. Edward's 56

FAR WEST

EA Sports Maui Invit Semifinals

Semifinals
lowa 82, Texas 80
North Carolina 94, Tennessee 81
Consolation Bracket
Louisville 93, Chaminade 63
Stanford 62, BYU 53

Louisyille 39, Lyterminate to Stanford & Quardians Classic Semifinals Creighton 78, Missouri 54 Ohio St. 78, Houston 614 Las Vega Second Round Arizona St. 67, Delaware St. 56, Lillinois St., Tennessee St. 60 UTEP 83, Jackson St. 67 Vanderbilt 39, CS Northridge 75

AP Women's Top 25 fared

AP Women's Top 25 fared

J. Tennesse C. Bressey

1. Tennesse C. Bressey

1. September 1. Septemb

lay. 8. Connecticut (1-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Florida, Wednesday, Dec. 1. 9. Baylor (2-1) beat Mississippi State 66-49. Next: vs. Sam Houston State. Friday. 10. Duke (3-1) did not play. Next: vs. Stephen F. Austin at Bahamas, Friday. 11. Ohio State (3-1) did not play. Next: vs. 11. Ohio State (3-1) did not play. Next: vs. Yale, Saturday. 12. Texas Tech (1-0) did not play. Next: at

No. 7 Stanford, Sunday. 13. Michigan State (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Utah at Honolulu, Friday. 14. Vanderbilt (2-0) did not play. Next: vs.

14. Vanderbilt (2-0) did riot play. Next: vs. node Island, Friday. 15. Purdue (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Ar-nass at Corpus Christi, Texas, Thursday. 16. Kansas State (2-0) did not play. Next: s. Illinois State at Bahamas, Friday. 17. Rutgers (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. suth Dakota State at US Virgin Islands,

soum Balora State at US Virgin Island, Sharing Manufaya, La Ji dil not play, Next: at Companya (La Ji dil not play, Next: at Companya (La Ji dil not play, Next: at Next: at Companya (La Ji dil not play, Next: source), Next: source, Next: so

Next: ys. No. 5 North Caronina ... Saturday. 25. Arizona (2-1) did not play. Next: at BYU,

Tuesday's women's scores

Boston U. 83, Long Island U. 66 Brown 64, Fairleigh Dickinson 6 Fordham 66, Dartmouth 48 Boom U. S. Long hadden on a Boom U. S. Long hadden on a Boom U. S. Long hadden on a Boom U. S. Long had been seen as a Bo

Baylor 66, Micsicsipp 34, 49
Charlotte 78, Davidgo 17, 2
Coastal Carolina 59, Campbell 48
Georgia Tech 71, Old Dominion 64
Grambling St. 58, Bethune-Cookman 51
Longwood 60, William 8, Mary 46
N. Towa 60, Murray St. 56
North Carolina 88, Charleston Southern
Northwestern 51, 78, Texas A&M Coinerce 20, 200

ce 62 ttsburgh 86, N. Carolina A&T 71 chmond 65, Liberty 45 outhern Miss. 79, Ark-Little Rock 65 Southern Miss. 79, Ark-Little Rock os Tennessee 71, George Washington 41 Tennessee Tech 67, UAB 52 Towson 73, Md.-Eastern Shore 68 Troy St. 57, Birmingham-Southern 50 Tulane 54, Jacksonville St. 51 UMBC 89, Morgan St. 52 Va. Commonwealth 62, Siena 53 Virginia 74, Delaware St. 47
Virginia Tech 80, James Madison 67
W. Kentucky 89, Austin Peay 50
MIDWEST

os, Austin Peay 50 MIDWEST Dayton 73, Cleveland St. 62 DePaul 89, Wis-Milwaukee 67 Evansville 61, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 53 Miami (Ohio 80, Chicago St. 53 Oakland, Mich. 74, Cent. Michigan 70 Ohio 85, Youngstown St. 75 SE Missouri 107, Lyon 45 Wichita St. 83, Toron 55 io 85, Youngstown St. 79
Missouri 107, Lyon 45
ichita St. 83, Texas Southern 64
SOUTHWEST

New Mexico 60, Oklahoma St. 56
Texas-Pan American 85, Texas A&M Inter actional 49
UTEP 64, New Mexico St. 44
FAR WEST

PAR WEST
Oregon 65, Southern U. 52
San Diego 64, San Diego 5t. 49
San Jose 5t. 54, UC Irvine 52
TOURNAMENT
Great Alaska Shootout
First Round
Louisiana-Lafayette 88, Alaska-Anchorage
48

Stanford 91, E. Washington 50 EXHIBITION Utah St. 75, Utah Valley St. 59

College soccer

Men's Division I tournament

Second Round Tuesday, Nov. 23 age 1, Connecticut Boston College 1, Connecticut 0 St. John's 3, Boston U. 1 Maryland 4, Hofstra 0 Tulsa 1, Penn State 1, Tulsa won 4-3 on pen

alty kicks Wake Forest 5, UCF 0 Indiana 1, Michigan 0 Duke 2. Old Dominion

wake Forest 5, UCF 0 Indiana 1, Michigan 0 Duke 2, Old Dominion 1, OT Virginia 2, American 1 Ohio State 2, Notre Dame 1 Virginia Commonwealth 2, George Wash-ington 0

North Carolina-Greensboro 2, Coll. or

harleston 1.
Creighton 3, Northwestern 2
Southern Methodist 1, California 0
New Mexico 4, Portland 1
UCLA 3, Loyola Marymount 0
UC Santa Barbara 2, Wis-Milwauke
Third Round
Nov. 27-28
Wake Forest (14-5-1) vs. Virginia Co

Wake Forest (14-5-1) vs. Virginia Common-wealth (12-5-2) US Santa Barbara (18-2-1) vs. UNC-Greens-boro (19-2-1) Ohio State (12-6-2) vs. Duke (16-5) New Mexico (17-1-1) vs. Virginia (18-4-0) Maryland (16-5-1) vs. Creighton (14-4-1) St. John's (11-5-4) vs. UCt. 4 (13-2-2) Southern Methodist (16-3-1) vs. Tulsa (12-6-3) b-3) oston College (13-4-2) vs. Indiana (15-4-1)

Deals

Tuesday's transactions BASEBALL

AMSEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named Alan Marr
national crosschecker, Jim Richardson,
Mark Raiston and James Keller scouts.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms
with RHF Kenny Rayborn, RHP Jake Robbins
Agracet Ernie Young on minor league con-

INTELL.

INT

with C sreg Myers on a minor league con-ract.

National League
CINCINATI REDS-Agreed to terms with C
Auer Valentin on a one-year contract.

LOS ANGELS DODGES-Purchased
the ontracts of life film Myrow and OF Jason
ontracts of life in Myrow and OF Jason
in Myrow and OF Jason
ontracts of the Southmit Eague, and C Russell Martin and ZB Defmit League, and C Russell Martin and ZB Defyr Young from Vero Beach of the Florida

wyn roung from vero beach of the Horida State League. MONTREAL EXPOS - Named David Cope who was not been seen to sales and marketing, ovice president of sales and marketing, ovice yet with the work of the work Ramirez trainer.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with
RHP Rudy Seanez on a one-year contract.

HP Rudy Seanez on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

BOSTON CELTICS—Placed F Tom Gugliotta
on the injured list. Activated F Justin Reed

rom the injured list.

HOUSTON ROCKETS—Placed F Ryan
owen on the injured list. Activated G Andre Bowen on the injured list. Activated G Andre Barrett from the injured list. INDIANA PACERS—Placed F Jonathan Bend-er on the injured list. Johnson from the injured list. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Placed G Shaun Liberation on the injured list. ivingston on the injured list. LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Placed F Brian

LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Placed F Briar grant, G Sasha Vujacic on the injured list. Ac tivated C Vlade Divac and F Jumaine Jones from the injured list. MIAMI HEAT—Activated F Christian Lett ner from the injured list. Placed F Malik Aller on the injured list.

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed FB Casey
Moore to the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed RB James
Jackson. Waived LB Nick Rogers. Re-Signed
WR Kelvin Kight to the practice squad.
Signed RB Ghris Roberston to the practice
squad. Released S David Young from the
practice squad.

The state of the s

andary coach, and Chris Achuff, 'defensive ine coach.

10WA—Signed Kirk Ferentz, football oach, to a three-year contract extension hrough 2012.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS—Named Connie Teab-erry women's track and field and cross coun-ry coach.

PHILADELPHIA—Named Holly Stagliano cross country coach.

PITTSBURGH—Named Chris Ferris assistant athletic director for marketing and pro

motions.

ST. ANSELM—Announced the resignation of Dean Schneidre, women's soccer coach.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Named Steve Spurrier football coach and signed him to a seven-year contract.

Goosen has early lead in **Grand Slam**

POIPU BEACH, Hawaii U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen shot a 7-under-par 65 to take a one-stroke lead Tuesday over PGA champion Vijay Singh in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf. Masters winner Phil Mickelson

had two eagles and shot a 68, and British Open champion



Todd Hamilton opened with a 70 in 36-hole the tournament for the year's

major champions. The elite foursome won a combined 15 events and \$23,639,340 this year on the PGA Tour.

Goosen and Singh fought for the lead throughout the day until Goosen emerged on the 550-yard No. 18 by tapping in for birdie.

Singh, coming off an amazing season that included nine wins and a tour record \$10,905,166 in earnings, three-putted the final hole

Cincinnati OB breaks hand

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati star guarterback Gino Guidugli broke a bone in his throwing hand when he slipped outside his home, and he might miss Satur-day's game at No. 7 Louisville.

Guidugli, who holds most of the school's passing records, broke a small bone on the top of his right hand Saturday night.

"I slipped on the top step, tried to brace my fall and hurt my hand," Guidugli said.

He was at practice Tuesday, with his hand wrapped. Doctors told him not to throw this week, he said.

Cincinnati (6-4, 5-2 Conference USA) lost four of its first six games but became bowl eligible by beating South Florida 45-23 last Saturday. Guidugli is one touchdown pass from tying the Bearcats' single-season record of

Dodgers keep manager Tracy

LOS ANGELES — Dodgers manager Jim Tracy agreed Wednesday to a two-year contract after leading Los Angeles to its first nostseason annearance in eight years.

Tracy's previous deal expired last month, and the Dodgers had been the only major league team without a manager under contract.

Los Angeles is 356-292 during Tracy's four years as manager

France, Russia lead at Fed Cup

MOSCOW - Defending champion France and Russia easily won opening singles matches Wednesday to take 2-0 leads in the Fed Cup semifinals.

The French, without star players Amelie Mauresmo and Mary Pierce, took a 2-0 lead over Spain as Nathalie Dechy defeated Maria Sanchez Lorenzo 6-2, 6-4 after Tatiana Golovin won the opener 6-3, 6-3 over Anabel Medina Garrigues.



St. Joe's no longer in Kansas' league

No. 2 Javhawks cruise to 40-point win

BY DOUG TUCKER The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — St. Joseph's picked a bad place and a terrible time to start life without guards Jameer Nelson and Delonto Weet

With the two stars who led the Hawks to an unbeaten 2003-04 regular season now in the NBA, St. Joseph's was hopelessly outmanned against a No. 2 Kansas team that is bigger, more talented and had something to prove.

Miffed at dropping from No. 1 to No. 2, the Jayhawks shot better than 60 percent and routed last season's Atlantic 10 champions 91-51 Tuesday night.

"We were not ready to play against this level of competition, in this setting," said St. Joseph coach Phil Martelli, last season's Associated Press coach of the year. "This is not something you want to go through too often."

Wayne Simien had 20 points and 13 rebounds — his second double-double in two games — as the Hawks came within four points of matching their worst loss, a 123-79 defeat against Cincinnati in 1959. It was their first regular-season loss since Dec. 28, 2002.

"They missed a lot of shots," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

"We did some good things against them defensively. St. Joseph's is playing short-handed. That wasn't the same team as last

Kansas (2-0) drew motivation from dropping in the poll this week following a close season-opening victory over unranked Vermont.

"There was a little buzz in the locker room after that," the 6-foot-9 Simien said. "I was definitely surprised. We kind of used it as a motivation for this game, people not taking us seriously.

But rankings don't mean much and we're excited to get the win." St. Joseph's shot 19 percent in

the first half on 5-for-26 shooting.
"We brought boys and we played men," Martelli said. "It was across the board because even their freshmen were men."

Further weakening the Hawks was the dislocated shoulder that's sidelined Pat Carroll, their only returning double-digit scorer.



Kansas forward Wayne Simien, left, tries to control a rebound while covered by Saint Joseph's center Dwayne Jones during the first half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan., Tuesday.

"They're kind of in a rebuilding mode, losing two first-round picks, and Carroll was also out, one of their best players," Simien said. "So we just capitalized."

When Sasha Kaun hit a short jumper that put Kansas on top 83-41, St. Joseph's was in danger of breaking its record for most loosided loss.

"I thought the real difference besides talent is that they have played a game," Martelli said.

The Hawks, favored to win their fifth straight Atlantic 10

title, made a futile attempt to keep pace with the taller and more experienced Jayhawks and often seemed to hurry their shots. The Hawks missed their first 10 three-pointers and wound up 2-for-18 behind the arc and 16-for-54 from the floor.

"Psychologically, the ball not going in does affect you," Martelli

Simien, who had 25 points and 14 rebounds against Vermont, earned his second double-double in two games with 4:46 left in the first half. He went to the bench with 12:33 to play.

Cal's focus on making BCS dream come true

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — After refusing to talk about the Bowl Championship Series standings for weeks and weeks, California coach Jeff Tedford finally is willing to admit he's been paying attention.

He still doesn't seem quite comfortable with the campaigning and posturing done at other schools, however.

Everyone Golden Bears (9-1, 7-1 Pac-10) are dying for their first trip to the Rose Bowl in 45 years — but when first asked about their postseason hopes Tuesday, Tedford slyly called it "the opportunity to go to the bowl game that would be great to go to."

He quickly broke down and acknowledged the Bears' designs Pasadena. They probably will need a victory in their hurricane-postponed regular season finale at Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4 to stay in position, but Tedford believes his players are exactly where they should be in the complicated standings. "It's something we need to

keep an eye on now," Tedford said.
"That being said, the only thing

we can control is how we prepare to play against Southern Miss."

And Tedford won't run up the score to do it. Even with the change in the BCS formula this season to de-emphasize computer evaluations, the nation's top coaches have wrestled with this ethical dilemma again (Nkahoma coach Bob Stoops admittedly paddeth efinal score against Nebraska earlier in the season, but regretted it later.

"We're going to play our hardest, and if we get to the fourthquarter and we're fortunate enough to be ahead, we're going to play the [reserves] of our team," Tedford said, noting Cal's 384-131 scoring edge over its opponents this season. "What do you have to do? Do you have to score 70? Is that worth it?"

Though Tedford is as savvy as any top coach, the Bears know the BCS is well down his list of priorities. Next week's preparations for Southern Miss might include BCS talk for the first time — but only in the context of a trip to the Rose

"He really doesn't talk about it with us, except to remind us that it doesn't matter," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "He knows we hear stuff from friends and family, and he knows we watch TV, but nobody on this team is sitting around worrying about the

The players won't have to worry about anything this week, with two light days of practice followed by a three-day break for Thanksgiving. Even Tedford plans to stay home Thursday—his first day off since last sum-

Florida freshman leads rout against dad

The Associated Press

Sidney Green could only watch from the sideline as his team got

picked apart — by his own son. Freshman point guard Taurean Green sparked No. 23 Florida to a 90-45 victory Tuesday night over Florida Atlantic, the team coached by his father, a former NBA forward.



Painful loss proud moment.

"I love my son like any other parent, any other dad

would love their kid," Sidney said. "I want what's best for him, and that's why he's here. A great coach, a great system, a bunch of great players on this team and he played very well."

Taurean played 23 minutes and finished with eight assists, as many as any returning Florida player had in a game last year. He also scored eight points in a big first half, helping the Gators (2-0) to an easy victory in their home opener. "It was weird seeing him over

there during free throws and timeouts," the younger Green said. "Other than that, it was like a regular game."

Matt Walsh scored 21 points for Florida. Robert Williams led Florida Atlantic (0-2) with 10.

Gators coach Billy Donovan said the younger Green did well despite being placed in the awkward position of trying to beat his father's team. leaves their home state and goes back home to play their state school," Donovan said. "Those are tough things.

"He handled it pretty well. He played very well right away. We were being pressed and trapped all over the floor, and he had no turnovers in the first half." No. 6 Oklahoma State 90,

Ark.-Little Rock 65: At Stillwater, Okla., John Lucas III scored 22 points, Joey Graham added 16 and Oklahoma State (2-0) pulled away in the second half.

No. 8 Kentucky 73, Ball St.

53: At Cincinnati, Patrick Sparks scored 20 points and Shagari Alleyne added three second-half dunks to lead Kentucky (2-0).

No. 10 Michigan St. 104, Wis.-Green Bay 46; At East Lansing, Mich., Alan Anderson led a balanced offense with 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Spartans (2-0), who reached 100 points in consecutive games for the first time in more than 40 years.

No. 12 Louisville 93, Chaminade 63: At Lahaina, Hawaii, Taquan Dean scored 21 points



North Carolina's Rashad McCants, right, is fouled by Tennessee's Brandon Crump during UNC's 94-81 win in the Maui Invitational.

and Louisville bounced back from an opening-round loss at the Maui Invitational.

The Cardinals (2-1) will play Stanford for fifth place on Friday. No. 13 Maryland 93, Mercer

67: At College Park, Md., Nik Caner-Medley scored 21 points, and Maryland (2-0) placed four other players in double figures. Chris McCray had 15 points and a career-best nine rebounds.

No. 14 Mississippi St. 82, UMKC 64: At Starkville, Miss., Winsome Frazier scored a career-high 30 points and Marcus dogs (5-1), who shook off a sluggish start and won their third straight. Lawrence Roberts had 15 points and 12 rebounds while playing with a plastic mask protecting his broken nose.

lowa 82, No. 15 Texas 80: At Lahaina, Hawaii, Pierre Pierce hit a 25-foot jumper with 44 seconds left to give Iowa the lead for good in the semifinals of the Maui Invitational.

Jeff Horner led the Hawkeyes

(3-0) with 27 points. Pierce, who had 18 points and seven assists, hurt his ankle on the final play of the game and left the Lahaina Civic Center on crutches. He was taken for X-rays.

Brad Buckman led the Long.

horns (2-1) with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

No. 20 Wisconsin 72, UC Santa Barbara 61: At Madison, Wis., Clayton Hanson scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half, and Wisconsin (2-0) earned its 30th consecutive victory at home.

No. 21 Notre Dame 73, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 45: At South Bend, Ind., Chris Quinn scored 15 points and Dennis Latimore had career highs of 12 points and 11 rebounds to spark Notre Dame (2-0).

No. 25 Memphis 79, Arkansas State 75: At Memphis, Tenn., Sean Banks scored 28 of his career-high 31 points in the second half, leading the Tigers (4-1) to a lethargic victory. Banks also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Fighting Irish undeterred vs. No. 1 Trojans

By TOM COVNE The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - Notre Dame isn't worried about a crisis of confidence against top-ranked USC, even after 31-point losses two years in a row

"To the players, the reaction is a lot different, Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham said, "The point differential, I don't think, weighs as much as ome other people think."

Willingham apparently was right, because line-backer Mike Goolsby was oblivious to how much the Irish lost by the previous two seasons until asked by a reporter whether it could hurt Notre Dame's confidence heading into the game.

"I suppose, when you put it like that, it's going to hurt your confidence," he said. "You guys bring these things up. I don't realize it. It's a little shocking

The Irish were shocked by their 44-13 loss to the Trojans two years ago. USC entered that game ranked No. 6 and Notre Dame was No. 7. Bowl Championship Series berths were at stake, and it was expected to be a close game. It wasn't.

Carson Palmer threw for 425 yards and four

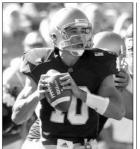
touchdowns, and USC compiled 610 yards of total of fense. Both the passing yards and the total yards were the most ever against the Irish, and many believe it helped Palmer win the Heisman Trophy.

The Trojans weren't quite as dominant last sea son, but the result was the same. Matt Leinart threw for 351 yards and four touchdowns in the victory Goolsby hopes the Irish (6-4) use the big losses as

motivation

"Because that's a beatdown, and you don't want to take that three years in a row," he said. Defensive end Kyle Budinscak doesn't think the Irish are suffering from a lack of confidence going

into Saturday's game against the Trojans (10-0). "No one wants to hear me say, 'I know that we can win.' Especially with the situation that we're in now," he said, "I know a lot of people don't give us a chance. To me, that bothers me. That's why I want to go out and prove otherwise.'



Freshman quarterback Brady Quinn leads the Irish this week against Southern Cal, which has posted back-to-back 31-point victories against the Irish.

The Irish point to the fact that they already have eaten Michigan and Tennessee, when those schools were ranked in the top 10, as proof they can compete with the best teams. Brady Quinn com-pared Notre Dame's chances to Ohio State's upset victory over Michigan on Saturday.

"They were able to beat seventh-ranked Michigan and salvage their season in some ways," he said. "Granted, I don't necessarily say we can salvage our season. But I think it would top it off pretty nicely." Willingham said the Irish need to believe they can

defeat the Trojans You have to believe something can happen before it can happen," he said. "It doesn't happen in most cases by just hoping and wishing. We've got to

take the right approach in there and we have to execute on that approach. Playing with the right attitude is going to be the

raying win use right actude is going to be the key, Willingham said.

"We've got to carry in there a don't worry, have fun, loose attitude, nothing to lose in this contest, and go play some very physical football," he said. "If we take that, the right mind-set, then I think our bodies will be able to perform at a level that we'll be

Franchione delivers on promise to A&M

Win vs. rival Texas would complete one of nation's biggest turnarounds

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION Tevas -Dennis Franchione had promised

his second year at Texas A&M would be better than the first. Franchione has delivered on that, turning around a team that went 4-8 last year to 7-3 this season with a No. 22 ranking. On Fri-

day, the Aggies could top it all a win over their archrival, No. 6 Texas. Yet no one is more surprised at

A&M's stunning turnaround this season than the coach who laid the foundation for it. 'We've taken a giant step from

last year," Franchione said.
"Maybe bigger than I was sure we could take in one year."

There were times when even he thought a quick fix was impos

sible, especially after a slew of lopsided defeats during the school's first losing season in 21

The Aggies lost their final three games in 2003 by a combined score of 168-37, including a 77-0 rout at Oklahoma and a 46-15 home loss to Texas. The season was such a disappointment and the Aggies looked so awful near the end of the year that Franchione later admitted to sobbing after the defeat to the Longhorns. "It was as tough a year as I've had in this profession," said Fran-

chione, who came to College Sta tion in December 2002 after leaving Alabama.

Franchione didn't expect much from such a young team in his second year even though every team he'd ever coached showed noticeable improvement after his first season

Texas A&M lost its season opener to No. 5 Utah by 21 points, but reeled off six straight wins before stumbling in a sloppy overtime loss to hapless Baylor. The Aggies then gave No. 2 Oklahoma a tough game before losing by a touchdown and rebounded with their first win in four years over Texas Tech.

The Aggies have made huge improvements with the emergence of multitalented quarterback Reggie McNeal - fourth nationally in total offense - and the drastic upgrade of a defense that was so bad last season that it was stripped of its longtime "Wrecking Crew" moniker.

They also done it against the nation's toughest schedule: A&M's opponents this year have com-bined for a 68-34 record.

A&M's quick leap from confer-ence doormat to contender only confirmed Franchione's reputa tion for rebuilding programs. The gap between the Aggies and Texas doesn't seem nearly large now — the winner of Friday's game will move into second place in the South division

Iowa, Ohio State, N. Carolina among schools going bowling

Four Big Ten teams got their bowl assignments Tuesday, with co-champion Iowa leading the way to the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

Wisconsin is headed to the Outback Bowl, while Purdue goes to the Sun Bowl and Ohio State plays in the Alamo Bowl Also Tuesday, North Carolina accepted a bid to the Continental Tire Bowl and the Mid-American Conference agreed to send a team to the Silicon Valley Football Clas-

The No. 12 Hawkeyes (9-2, 7-1 Big Ten) earned their invitation to a third straight New Year's Day bowl after beating Wisconsin on Saturday, claiming a share of the conference title. Coach Kirk Ferentz was rewarded for his success with a contract extension that will pay him a base salary of \$1.2 million.

The Hawkeyes will play the second-place finisher in the Southeastern Con-

Wisconsin made it to the Jan. 1 bowl in Tampa, Fla., after losing its final two conference games to miss out on at least a

share of the league championship.
The 20th-ranked Badgers (9-2, 6-2 Big Ten) return to the Outback Bowl for the third time, including the 1995 game when it was called the Hall of Fame Bowl. Wisconsin also will face a team from the Southeastern Conference.

The Badgers were 9-0 and ranked fourththey were blown out in back-to-back losses to Michigan State and

very comfortable with."

Purdue goes to the Sun Bowl for the third time in four years.

The Boilermakers (7-4, 4-4 Big Ten), who have gone to a bowl game in each of coach Joe Tiller's eight seasons, will likely face either No. 18 Arizona State (8-2) or Oregon State (6-5) in the game in El Paso. Texas, on Dec. 31.

Purdue began the season 5-0 and got as high as No. 5 in the AP poll before losing four straight games by a total of 10 points In their two previous trips to the Sun Bowl. the Boilermakers lost 33-27 to Washington State in 2001 and beat Washington 34-24 in

Ohio State was selected to play in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio on Dec. 29 after upsetting No. 7 Michigan 37-21 last weekend.

The Buckeyes (7-4, 4-4) will play a team from the Big 12.

"We're so excited to be heading to the Alamo Bowl. I know our kids are looking forward to it " coach Jim Tressel said "We look forward to filling up that Alamo Dome."

North Carolina heads to Charlotte, N.C. for a Dec. 30 game against a Big East team giving the Tar Heels their second bowl bid in four years under coach John Bunting.



Iowa quarterback Drew Tate is sacked by Wisconsin's Dontez Sanders on Saturday. title and will play in the Capital One Bowl.

The Tar Heels (6-5) closed the regular season with a 40-17 win at Duke, giving them three wins in their past four games to

qualify for the postseason.

North Carolina played one of the nation's toughest schedules, earning key wins against Georgia Tech and North Carolina State. Last month, the Tar Heels upset then-No. 4 Miami 31-28, their first win

over a top-five opponent.

The MAC will send a team to the Silicon Valley Football Classic on Dec. 30 in San Jose, Calif., to face a team from the Western Athletic Conference, taking the spot contractually reserved for the seventh-place Pac-10 team. The Pac-10 won't have enough bowl-eligible teams to fill its spot.

Toledo earns spot in MAC title game

TOLEDO, Ohio - Bruce Gradkowski threw for 338 yards and directed six second-half touchdown drives in Toledo's 49-41 victory Tuesday night over Bowling Green, putting the Rockets in the Mid-American Conference title game.

The Rockets, trailing 27-7 at the half, dominated the third quarter with 28 straight points. They didn't take lead until Gradkowski threw his third touch down pass, a 20-yard strike to Steve Odom with 2:20 left in the quarter.

Nothing went right for Bowling Green (8-3, 6-2 MAC) after halftime. The Falcons, who moved into the Top

25 a week ago then dropped out despite not playing, were stopped on all three of their third-quarter possessions after scoring the first five times they had the

Kicker Steve Suisham's 41-yard field goal try clanked off the left upright and it all came apart when Bowling Green receiver Steve Sanders was stripped of

the ball on a short pass play.

Toledo's Tyree Pollard recovered it at the Falcons' 22, setting up Jalen Parmele's 5-yard touchdown run that put Toledo ahead 35-27 on the final play

put 1 oledo aneau 35-27 on the mina piay of the third quarter.

Toledo (8-3, 7-1) will now play Miami of Ohio in the MAC title game at Ford Field in Detroit on Dec. 2. It will mark the fifth time the Rockets have played

in the conference championship game since it began in 1997

Starting to sound like a broken record

With 35 TD passes in 10 games, Manning nears Marino's mark

BY NICHOLAS J. COTSONIKA Detroit Free Press

Thirty-five touchdown passes "If I didn't throw another one the rest of the season, that's still the most I've ever thrown," Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning said. "I'd say I still had a pretty good year if I stopped right now.'

Unfortunately for the Lions, who host the Colts in the annual Thanksgiving Day game. Manning has shown no signs of slowing, let alone stopping. In fact, he has accel-

The way he's going, he won't just break Dan Marino's 20-year-old record of 48 touchdown passes in a season. He will obliterate it.

He's on pace for 56.

"If he stays on track, he's going to challenge that record, which is really an accom-Lions coach Steve Mariucci plishment." said. "I don't know if it equates to 75 home runs or what, but it's a large amount of touchdown passes for a season.

After throwing 17 touchdown passes in his first six games, Manning has thrown 18 in his past four

Thirty-five TD passes in 10 games? You have to go back 17 games for the Lions to equal that many touchdowns. You have to go back 28 games for them to equal that many touchdown passes.

"He's doing some things that only a few guys in history have had a chance to do ions cornerback Fernando Bryant said. "Over the last 10 years, he's the most complete player in this league.

After sharing the NFL most valuable player award with Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair last season, Manning went back to work. In March, he was at team headquarters with quarterbacks coach Jim Caldwell studying his performance.

"He put up some goals of things he wanted to do and ways we could get better," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "That's just the way he approached it.

The receivers studied, too, and Manning has been going over things with them at al most every opportunity this season the locker room, in the downtime during special-teams practice. They talk about routes, adjustments, what they're looking for against various coverages.

"That's really what it takes to get things the way you want them," said Manning, 28. "Everybody has good players and high picks, but our offseason work and kind of our behind-the-scenes work is really paying dividends now.

Manning has a great rapport with offensive coordinator Tom Moore, who directed the Lions' explosive offense in the pared, he steps up to the line of scrimmage with the option to run or pass every time a rarity in the NFL.

"He can call a pass every play," Dungy said

It might seem like he does. More than 75 percent of the Colts' touchdowns have come on passes. Five receivers have caught at least five touchdown passes. Not only does Manning lead the NFL in TD passes, he leads the league in passing yards (2,960) and passer rating (122.2).

But if the defense gives him a cushion, he will hand off to Edgerrin James. In a 41-10 victory at Chicago last week, Manning threw for 211 yards and four touchdowns. and James ran for 204 yards and a TD.

James makes Manning more dangerous. "It's all about just trying to execute the best play, whether it's a run or pass," said Manning, in his seventh season. "I have no greed or no ego whatsoever about checking to the runs if it gets us to the best play. . If we go up to Detroit and hand it off 40 times, I have no problem with that.'

But Manning is drawing attention from

the media for his season. Even Marino, who works for CBS, has in-

terviewed him. "I can't imagine what it's like for those baseball players," Manning said. "If any-



Colts QB Payton Manning, who has thrown 18 touchdown passes in his past four games, is 14 TD passes from breaking Dan Marino's season record of 48 set in 1984.

body gets on a hitting streak, trying to go after DiMaggio's streak, or anybody that's flirting with hitting .400, like Ted Williams, that's a lot of games those guys have to deal with those questions?

Manning has been humble.

"The more you think about it. it makes you realize how special the '84 season by Marino was," he said. "I mean, that's a lot of touchdowns. Forty-eight still seems like a long way away right now."

Some Lions have to scrape to get by these days

BY CURT SYLVESTER Detroit Free Press

DETROIT - Steve Mariucci just wanted to make sure his rookies were prepared for the season.

Not Thanksgiving Not Christmas

Winter

So the Detroit Lions head coach called his rookies together at the end of practice Tuesday - all 12 of them on the roster and practice squad - and presented each of them the piece of equipment he has found indispensable in surviving a Michigan winter. A snow scraper.

It started a month ago when

Mariucci met - as he frequently does — with the rookies to make sure they were adjusting well to life in the NFL

He suggested snow tires and four-wheel-drive vehicles for the Southerners in their first winter up north, and then rookie wide receiver Roy Williams raised a

Williams: "What are those things?

Mariucci: "What?" Williams: "What are those

things?" Mariucci: "Scrapers.

So, with snow flurries forecast this week, Mariucci decided it was time to distribute the surviv-

"I hope this is not a salary-can cost." he said laughing. "I thought I'd get them one because it's very timely right now, because I think it's coming 'We talked about how you use

them. There were some real good questions. Does that thing scratch my window? That sort of thing. So they're ready for the winter. Some of these guys have never seen snow before.

Williams, who grew up in Odessa, Texas, is among those unfamiliar with snow. He has seen an occasional flurry but never enough to shovel or scrape off a windshield. And if he ever saw ice on his windshield, he found other ways to get rid of it.

"We didn't have scrapers," he "We usually poured hot "I actually asked Coach Mooch.

'How do you get snow off the car? That's where all that came from

Mariucci learned the value of a scraper growing up in Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula. He said he first realized some NFL players had a problem with snow winter conditions when he was an assistant coach at Green Bay, working with Brett Fayre.

Favre grew up in Mississippi and - like Williams - wasn't pre-

pared for winter in the north. "Favre was over one night for dinner or something," Mariucci said. "When he was leaving - it was probably December had his shorts on, his flip-flops and shirt. He walked out, so Gayle and I were watching him leave

Favre made it to his four-wheel drive, which was covered with 3 or 4 inches of freshly fallen snow but he obviously wasn't dressed for snow-removal duty.

"I go, 'We've got to watch is.' "Mariucci said, laughing. 'We've got to watch

"You think he scrapes his car off? No. He rolls down his window and drives home with his head out the window.

"I yelled at him down the street, but he didn't care. He needed a scraper. That's why these guys need one."

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Top Scores for Week 11 Best Overall Scores 272 **GLADIATOR 36** HSC 94 ECB(H) 1798 giants#1 hhc 2/37 ar arcby 272 57Sporty 1782 **European Stars & Stripes** Jaguar One 272 HHOC 501st MI BN DoDDS 270 80th ASG NSA DPW 1762 SPIELMEISTER 04 Hohenfels Wayne Bratcher seahawksfan 409th bsb 1760 Jack58 422 ABS RAF Croughton 266 warvet27 Camp Arifian 1760 Chickyb 726 AMS Scottie Pimpin MCAS Iwakuni 374 AMXS 1754 dogboy 266 Caseyken 1754 Joe Corle Micau G-Man 1/10th SFG(A) Allisond 18 CES 1752

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Browns' brass declares Davis will finish season

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND - Browns president John Collins insisted Tuesday night that the team intends to have coach



is about to be fired. Collins tried to clear up any confusion by saying Davis' job was secure and the team would evaluate the coaching staff after the season.

'Butch is our head coach," he said. "It is our intent that he finishes the season and our focus is only on winning football games.

The Browns realize Davis could decide to leave the team but they aren't expecting him to go anywhere.

Cleveland's beleaguered coach went to work Tuesday to begin preparing for this week's game against the Cincinnati Bengals as if everything were normal

As usual, with the Browns, it's anything but.

Davis has been under pressure to show improvement with the Browns (3-7), who have a four-game losing streak in another season filled with injuries and controversy.

His dismissal seemed imminent, with reports saying owner Randy Lerner had contemplated firing him Sunday night following the club's 10-7 loss to the New York Jets. Lerner has been increasingly upset with the team's record and the Browns' slide into last place in the AFC North. The team issued a statement

NFL scoreboard

Monday's game New England 27, Kansas City 19 Thursday's games Indianapolis at Detroit Chicago at Dallas **American Conference** L T Pct PF PA 1 0 .900 264 171 3 0 .700 212 165 6 0 .400 180 183 9 0 .100 140 210 go at Dallas Sunday, Nov ssee at Houston ington at Pittsburgh leiphia at N.Y. Glants and at Cincinnati nday, Nov. 28 Philadeippila at N.Y. Giants Cleveland at Cincinnati San Diego at Karsa City Tampa Bay at Carolina Tampa Bay at Carolina Tampa Bay at Carolina New Orleans at Atlanta Buffalo at Seattle N.Y. Jets at Arizona Mami at San Francisco Baltimore at New England Oakland at Denver Oakland at Denver St. Louis at Green Bay Indiananolis 3 0 4 0 6 0 6 0 .700 339 230 .600 166 181 .400 198 239 .400 186 212 .900 240 161 .700 204 140 .400 183 198 .300 177 208 NFL injury report NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report for Thanksgiving, as provided by the league: League july report for Thanksplving, as provided by the Sumuraday, and the Markaday and the

National Conference



San Francisco 1 9 Sunday's gar Baltimore 30, Dallas 10 Buffalo 37, St. Louis 17 Indianapolis 41, Chicago 10 Denver 34, New Orleans 13 N.Y. Jets 10, Cleveland 7 N.Y. Jets 10, Cleveland / Carolina 35, Arizona 10 Tennessee 18, Jacksonville 15 Minnesota 22, Detroit 19 Pittsburgh 19, Cincinnati 14 Tampa Bay 35, San Francisco 3 Seattle 24, Miami 17 San Diego 23, Oakland 17 Atlanta 14, N.Y. Giants 10 Philadelphia 28, Washington 6 Green Bay 16, Houston 13

NFL injury update

ies to prominent NFL players, fol-by team's prognosis. (See Fri edition for complete injury report day's edition for complete injury report provided by the league!: Cardinals: RB Troy Hambrick (foot) out for season. Chees: RB Priest Holmes (knee) out Steelers: RB Duce Staley (hamstring) questionable; WR Plaxico Burress (ham-string) out for Sunday: LB Kendrell Bell (groin) out 3-4 weeks; DL Brett Keisel (hamstring) out 3-4 weeks;

Tuesday saying it was not planning any changes.

"The Cleveland Browns organization is acutely aware of our fans' passion and share in their desire for a championship team. We acknowledge the disappointment and frustration with this season's record," it said.

"We reiterate that we are keeping our organization intact in order to focus our efforts toward winning our remaining football

Miami's Fiedler out for season

MIAMI - Miami Dolphins quarterback Jay Fiedler was put on injured reserve Tuesday with a herniated disc in his neck and will miss the rest of the season

Fiedler was hurt during Sun-day's 24-17 loss at Seattle after playing one series in place of A.J. Feeley, who left with an injured hip. Feeley later returned

The move leaves the Dolphins with Feeley, who is dealing with the hip injury that left him limping and grimacing in pain during nday's game, and Sage Roser fels at quarterback. It wasn't clear when the Dolphins would sign a quarterback

NFL calendar

Jan. 2 — Regular season ends. Jan. 8-9 — Wild-eard playoffs, Jan. 15-16 — Divisional playoffs. Jan. 23 — Conference Championships. Feb. 6 — Super Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla. Feb. 13 — Pro Bowl, Hondulu. Feb. 23-March 1 — Scouting combine, India-Feb. 23-March 1 — Scouting combine, India-

April 23-24 — NEL Draft, New York.



Since taking over for Chris Palmer before the start of the 2001 season, Butch Davis, above, is 24-34 as Cleveland's coach.

Cowboys safety Woodson won't play this season

IRVING, Texas - Darren Woodson has given up trying to play this season for the Dallas Cowboys, but the five-time Pro Bowl safety isn't ready to end his

"It doesn't mean that I won't play next year," Woodson said Tuesday, "If I'm done, I'm done, but right now I've got to help out as much as I can here. At the same time, I've got to get ready My mind says to get healthy '

Woodson hasn't practiced since having a herniated disc removed from his back in July, just before training camp began for his 13th season. He said he won't make a long-term determination about playing until he's healthy.

The 35-year-old is the team's career leading tackler (1,350 tackles in 178 regular-season games) and the only player on the roster from three Super Bowls the Cowboys won in the 1990s.

Woodson has two years left on the \$20 million, five-year con-

R. Williams to begin serving suspension before reinstatement

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Ricky Williams will serve a four-game susnension beginning next month and then be reinstated with the Miami Dolphins by the NFL, according to his lawyer. The league says an agree

ment has not been finalized "I am pleased with the Nation-

al Football League's proposal, attorney David Cornwell said Tuesday. "I think Ricky will be pleased, too,' Williams must approve the deal, which would move him

from the retired list to the sus pended list for the final four games of this season. The running back is required to serve a four-game suspension for violatthe league's stance-abuse rules.

After that, his contract with the Dolphins would be in force. "Anything regarding Ricky's status is a league matter," Dol-

phins spokesman Harvey Greene said.

"No agreement has been eached at this time," NFL reached at this time spokesman Greg Aiello said, adding the league and Williams' representatives have been in discussions "for some time."

Williams, 27, retired during the summer, giving up the \$5 million he would have earned this season, which would have been his sixth in the NFL, amid reports he faced the suspension for substance abuse Williams is 17-month course at the California College of Avurveda in Grass Valley, Calif., studying holistic medicine

Williams' sudden retirement was a blow to the Dolphins. The star runner was the focal point of Miami's offense and the Dolphins, ravaged by injuries, are

They will have their first losing season since 1988 and Dave Wannstedt resigned as coach earlier this month.

The team filed a lawsuit last month in federal court against Williams after an arbitrator ruled he owes the team more than \$8.6 million for breaching his contract. Williams rushed for 3,225

ards in two seasons with the Dolphins, including Dolphins, including a league-leading 1,853 yards in 2002. They acquired the 1998 Heisman Trophy winner in a trade with New Orleans after the 2001 season.

Throughout his career, Williams has been plagued by strange behavior, including conducting interviews with his helmet on when he was with the Saints. He suffers from social-anxiety disorder and was a spokesman for an anti-depres ant. He said marijuana helped him once he had to stop using the anti-depressant because it didn't agree with his diet

Williams found laughable re-ports he retired because he wanted to continue smoking marijuana

Jones: A real family affair in Dallas

"How can you rehearse how you will really react?" he said.

The elder Thomas Jones has thought a lot about how he'll handle this game, from his wardrobe (Bears hat, Cowboys jersey) to the message he wants to send to other fathers who will be watching. He calls it "his recipe" and it's heavy on tough love and perseverance.

"Somebody's got to be there to tell them the truth, not just what they want to hear," he said. "Be a father - not the most popular father, but the best father you can be. I hope that I have been that

The brothers say he has. Thomas said one example was their dad telling them to do sit-ups and push-ups every night instead of lifting weights. In addition to shaping their bodies, the workouts also provided mental tough-

The boys still take dad's advice, and he has a doozy planned for this week: "Look at each other right now and have a great big smile. Remember all the times you played video games and watched games together. We 44 I invite everybody who has a child or children who

> are playing football to enjoy this with us as a familu.

Thomas Jones NFL players' father

never, ever thought we'd have an opportunity like this, so go out and leave it all on the field. Have fun and run for all of the other little fellows who want to be where you are.'

Beyond the typical obstacles Thomas and Julius faced in their climb from Big Stone Gap, Va., (pop. 5,906) to the NFL, a lot of things had to come together to make this holiday so perfect, starting with both players overcoming

Julius missed the opener with bruised ribs, then broke his right shoulder blade. He made a surprising return Sunday and handled 30 carries. Thomas also returned Sunday after missing two games with a sprained left big

The family's biggest concern recently involved their oldest sister. Gwen, who was due to deliver twins Wednesday in Baltimore.

Had they arrived on time. Gwen and Betty would've missed the game. But the babies were seven weeks premature, causing more serious problems.

The babies progressed so quickly that they joined their mother and grandmother on a flight to Dallas on Sunday. Julius saw his niece Chloe and nenhew Jalen for the first time that night, and Thomas will have the same pleasure Wednesday night.

Gwen and the kids will watch the game at Julius' house, along with Thomas' 88-year-old mother and her 86-year-old cousin. Betty, Thomas and their other four daughters (including Julius' twin sister) will be at Texas Stadium, three wearing Cowboys jerseys and three sporting Bears colors

"It's just a blessing to be in this predicament," the elder Thomas Jones said. "I invite everybody who has a child or children who are playing football to enjoy this with us as a family.

Lions' Rogers consistently disrupting his neighborhood

The Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. - Shaun Rogers is in the backfield as often as some running backs.

Whether teams dare to block Detroit's star defensive tackle with one player or follow the trend of double-teaming him, he often rins through offensive lines with a rare combination of size, speed, strength and nimble footwork

Not much about the Lions has been consistently good this season, but the 6-foot-4, 345-pound Rogers has emerged as one of the NFL's most dominant players.

"I think Shaun Rogers is the best defensive lineman in the game, not just the best defensive tackle, Lions CEO Matt Millen said Tuesday. "Some might be stronger, quicker or bigger, but nobody has his combination of all those things in addition to being

The reeling Lions (4-6) are expected to be handled easily by the high-scoring Indianapolis Colts (7-3) at home Thursday, but Rogers will make his share of plays

When Colts quarterback Peyton Manning started preparing for the game, he kept noticing No. 92 caus-

ing problems for Detroit's opponents.

"He really jumps out on film," Manning said.
"He's a real difference-maker on that defense. The offensive line is going to have to account for him." Dallas coach Bill Parcells said few are as big and disruptive as Rogers

"Last year for Carolina, Kris Jenkins was a little bit like that, but I don't even think to the extent that Rogers is," Parcells said earlier this season.

Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy, who coached some of the game's best defensive tackles - Warren Sann and John Randle - when he was in Tamna Bay and Minnesota, said Rogers reminds him of a former Seattle star "He's a lot like Cortez Kennedy and some of the

bigger, more powerful guys that have really wreaked some havoc in the NFL," Dungy said. "I haven't been fortunate enough to have any of those big massive guys. He's a load in there Rogers was honored and humbled when the com-

pliments were relayed to him, but Detroit's four-game losing streak doesn't allow him to celebrate anything these days.

"It's bittersweet," he said. "As a competitor, you want to dominant the man - or men - across from you and you want to be noticed around the league for it. But you play this game to win and right now, we're not winning Rogers, a Pro Bowl alternate last season, has 46

tackles and 41/2 sacks this season, his fourth in the NFL. He also has broken up four passes, recovered a fumble and blocked the fifth field goal of his ca-

"He's having a heck of a year, his best year," Lions coach Steve Mariucci said. "He's the leading

vote-getter for the Pro Bowl at his position." When Rogers doesn't make a tackle, he often ties up a lineman or two, allowing teammates to roam free to make the play



Lions defensive tackle Shaun Rogers has emerged as one of the top defensive tackles in the NFL despite Detroit's four-game losing streak.

"People don't understand that unless they really know football," Detroit defensive tackle Dan Wilkin-son said. "This is my 11th year in the league, and he's definitely one of the best I've seen at our posi-

Rogers' fantastic season probably will lead to a very lucrative contract

Detroit probably will have to at least match the deal Carolina gave Jenkins during the 2003 season The Panthers signed Jenkins - sidelined this season with a shoulder injury - to a five-year, \$31 million contract extension that included a \$9 million signing bonus

"This is the last year on my contract, but I don't think you're ever totally unrestricted in this game because of the franchise-tag option teams have," Rogers said. "A new contract was brought up early in the year, but that has been left alone for now. I'm just letting that rest so that I can concentrate on play-

ing ball and helping us dig out of our situation I would love to stay here, but this is a business and you have to act accordingly

Millen declined to talk about specifics involving previous contract negotiations or future discussions with Rogers, but made it clear Detroit wants to

"We've got to get a new deal done with Shaun, Millen said. "He's a guy you definitely want to build around."

re-sign him.

NFL statistics

American Conference Individual leaders

Week 11

James, Ind. Martin, NYJ Dillon, N.E. Holmes, K.C. Brown, Ten. Tomlinson, S.D. R. Johnson, Cin Droughns, Den. Taylor, Jac. Staley, Pit. 853 847 844 757 707 3.9 3.8 4.9 4.5 4.7 216 222 174 168 151 Avg 12.0 11.3 15.1 11.9 Mason, Ten. Gates, S.D. Johnson, Hou. Ward, Pit.

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Martin, NYJ Gates, S.D. 10

Gates, S.D. Tomlinson, S.D. Wayne, Ind. Davis, Hou. Harrison, Ind. Dillon, N.E. James, Ind. Lelie, Den.

Vinatieri, N.E. Elam, Den. Graham, Cin. Kaeding, S.D. Stover, Bal. Stover, Bal. Dawson, Cle. Janikowski, Oak. Tynes, K.C. K. Brown, Hou. Reed, Pit. agt, Ind

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40-40 8-11 Pts 102 77 75 73 70 69 66 66 66 64 64 64 Team statistics

22-22 13-13 19-19 T. Peterson, S.F. Rackers, Ariz

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Washington Tampa Bay New York Giants Seattle Philadelphia Arizona Green Bay Atlanta San Francisco Carolina Chicago Detroit Dallas

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National Conference

Individual leaders

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23 25 27 14 20 23 14 22 26 Rossum, Atl. McQuarters, Chi. Burleson, Min. Lewis, N.O. Battle, S.F. Ward, Dal. Chatman, G.B. Williams, Ariz 308 144 194 212 80 Avg 27.2 26.7 26.6 25.5 23.7 23.2 23.0 23.0 Drummond, Det. Cox, T.B. Ponder, NYG Reed, Phi. Berrian, Chi. Lee, Dal. Azumah, Chi. Scobey, Ariz 1035 640 453 509 38 24 17 20 15 31 22 22 991 59 38 66 356 718 506 505 Lewis, N.O. Morris, Sea 46 22 1052 503 22.9 22.9

Alexander Sea Alexander, Sea. Owens, Phl. Barber, NYG Muhammad, Car. Moss, Min. Smith, Ariz Walker, G.B. Dunn, Atl. Green, G.B. 10 FG Akers, Phi. J. Brown, Sea. Longwell, G.B. Carney, N.O. Christie, NYG Andersen, Min Feely, Atl. Wilkins, St.L 19-22 18-19 15-18 17-19 14-20 11-14 11-13 29-29 22-22

Team statistics

125.5 117.8 109.7 109.7 144.7 104.7 98.0 89.1 131.8 97.1 160.3 216.6 250.3 236.6 239.6 195.2 220.2 152.6 361.3 355.0 334.6 328.7 327.0 317.3 312.9 85.3 95.5 109.3 Rush 89.7 120.5 125.5 110.7 97.3 120.7

133.2 133.6 125.4 119.9

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Pacers make do; **Pistons cannot**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana crowd jumped to its feet with a jubilant roar when Jamaal Tinsley scored off a steal by Fred Jones in the third quarter. After a long weekend of enduring the embarrassing fallout from their brawl in Detroit, the Pacers used a makeshift lineup and gave their fans plenty to cheer about.

Turning in a solid all-around effort, the Pacers handily downed the Boston Celtics 106-96 Tuesday night in their first game since learning the severity of the punishments handed down by the NBA to Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal.

"Our heart is a little sore with our three best players not with us," said Jones, who had 16 points and 10 rebounds. "I think the fans filled that void."

In Charlotte, the Pistons had all their players back from suspensions stemming from the fight except Ben Wallace, who served the second of a six-game ban, but Rasheed Wallace was ejected when he argued a technical foul for throwing his headband into the crowd.

Detroit never found its rhythm and became the first NBA champion to lose to an expansion team since 1970-71, falling to the Bobcats 91-89.

"We're good, but we ain't the champs no more," said Chauncey Billups, who was suspended for Sunday's game but came back to lead Detroit with 24 points. "That's over with. They kicked our butts."

Tinsley scored 29 points for Indiana in his return after missing Saturday's game with a wrist injury sustained in the melee, and James Jones had a career-high 22 points and 10 rebounds

With several Pacers wearing Jackson's and O'Neal's arm bands, they outrebounded Boston 45-33, made 31 of 33 free throws and dived for loose balls, all to the

delight of the fans.

"In a lot of cities, people just come to see stars," coach Rick Carlisle said. "But in this city, people come to watch the game of basketball, and they love it. It just means so much to us as a franchise to get this kind of support in the situation we're in.

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 20 points, but shot just 6-for-14 from the field.

In Charlotte, Rasheed Wallace blamed his expulsion on the aftereffects from the fight Friday.

"It's a technical now for throwing stuff in the stands? I just questioned [the official], asked 'since when,' and he said 'It's always been like that,' " Wallace said. "I knew it wasn't the case, for the simple fact that I did it a couple of times this year and Ben [Wallace]

"That's crazy. I guess it's just a fallout from the other night.

Emeka Okafor had his best game as a professional, scoring 22 points and grabbing 15 re bounds to help the Bobcats become the first expansion team to



Roundup

beat the reigning NBA champion since Portland and Buffalo defeated the Knicks during the 1970-71

Wizards 102, Raptors 86: At Washington, the Wizards won their third straight game under coach Eddie Jordan for the first time with a dominant game on the boards.

Antawn Jamison scored 28 points, Gilbert Arenas had 26 and Washington had a 64-47 rebounding advantage, including 26-13 on the offensive boards.

Knicks 104, Hawks 88: Nazr Mohammed had another strong game against the team that traded him last season, scoring 18 points and grabbing 14 rebounds to lead the Knicks past visiting At-

Stephon Marbury had 16 points and 11 assists - all in the first half - as New York improved to .500.

Trail Blazers 99, Heat 87: Zach Randolph had 24 points, and Derek Anderson added 19, helping Portland pull away with a 17-8 run in the second half for a

Shaquille O'Neal had 17 points and 13 rehounds - his seventh double-double in the past eight games for Miami.

SuperSonics 103, Timber-wolves 92: Rashard Lewis scored 27 points, Ray Allen added 24 and Seattle made 10 of 19 three-pointers to win on the road. Kevin Garnett led the Timber-

wolves with 16 points and 14 re-

Nuggets 90, Nets 88: Kenyon Martin had 22 points and 12 re-bounds against his former team, and Earl Boykins hit a runner with 21 seconds left to lift the Nuggets at home.

Kings 102, Rockets 96: Peja Stojakovic scored 22 points and Bobby Jackson got 10 of his 18 in the fourth quarter to help the Kings complete a perfect five-game homestand.

Houston lost despite making 52 percent of its shots and getting 29 points and nine rebounds from Yao Ming.

Lakers 100. Bucks 96: At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 30 points and the Lakers held off Milwaukee in the final minute.

Reserve Desmond Mason scored 26 points and reserve Mike James added 18 points and 11 assists for the Bucks, who lost their fifth in a row.

Warriors 115, Hornets 109 (30T): Speedy Claxton scored 21 points, including five free throws in the final 15 seconds of the third overtime, to help Golden State beat visiting New Orleans

Calbert Cheaney scored four of his 18 points in the third five-minute period, and Jason Richardson had 26 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for the War-

3 arrested for extorting Anthony

NEW YORK - Three men were arrested Tuesday night for trying to extort \$3 million from Denver Nuggets star Carmelo An-

Joubert Santos and Jason Pabon of the Bronx, and Rodrigo Sanchez of South Orange, N.J., had a videotape that showed Anthony fighting at a Manhattan nightclub in September with a man known as Sugar Ray, police

The fight broke out after Ray spit a drink on Anthony's girlsaid Jane Yin, a spokeswoman for Anthony's agent, Calvin An-drews, Ray and Vasquez were once engaged.

No one was hurt in the fight, but the three men demanded \$3 million from Anthony in ex-change for the tape. A meeting was set up Tuesday night near Central Park with an undercover police detective posing as a representative for Anthony, said Michele Irizarry, a police spokes

A check was handed over and Santos, 29, Pabon, 26, and

Sanchez, 36, were arrested and charged with grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property

"I just found out today that they were arrested. So I'm happy the police handled it the best they could," Anthony said after the Nuggets beat New Jersey 90-88 Tuesday night.

The second-year forward ac-knowledged he had been worried about the situation.

"It would be something any-body would think about. It is a lot to handle. Things happen for a reason," he said.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division



Southwest Division L Pct 3 .727 4 .667



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Washington 102. Throoto 86
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Portland 99, Miami 87
Portland 109, 3OT

Milwaukee at Procents
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Minnesota at Indiana
New Jersey at L.A. Clippers
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Washington at Philadelphi
Portland at Dallas
Orlando at Atlanta
Cleveland at Boston
Miami at Detroit
Charlotte at Indiana
Memphis at Minnesota

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Boston
Indiana
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Fouled out—Bount, Welsch, Rebounds—Boston 36 (Davis 7), Indiana 51 (F. Jones, J. Jones

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'M. Aeciete—Ponton 19 (Payton 8), Indiana

10). Assists-Boston 19 (Payton 8), Indiana 17 (Tinsley 6). Total fouls-Boston 28, Indi-Wizards 102, Raptors 86 TORONTO — Carter 11-21 2-6 25, Bosh 5-12 5-8 15, Woods 0-2 1-2 1, Murray 1-9 0-0 2, Al-ston 6-18 4-6 20, Peterson 2-10 2-4 6, Moiso

Bobcats 91, Pistons 89

—Ham. Reböunds—Detroit 35 (McDyess I Charlotte 53 (Okafor 15), Assists—Detroit (Billups 7), Charlotte 25 (Knight 19). To fouls—Detroit 23, Charlotte 22. Technicals Detroit assistant coach Heard 2, R.Wallace Charlotte Defensive Three Second. Elect-of Detroit assistant coach Heard, R.Walla

Knicks 104, Hawks 88

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19 24 21 24 — 88 24 28 27 25 — 104 nt Goals — Atlanta 1-12 (Delk 1-5, New York
Three-Point Goals—Atlanta I-12 (Delk 1-5,
Barry D-1, Childress 0-1, Harrington 0-2, Walker
0-3), New York 2-12 (J.CrawYord 2-9, Mar-bury 0-1, T.Thomas 0-2), Fouled out—None.
8), New York (6) (Mohammed 1-4), Assists—At-lanta I8 (Childress 5), New York 25 (Marbury
11), Total Touls—Atlanta 23, New York I8,
Technicals—Atlanta 20, New York Marbury
11, Total Touls—Atlanta 23, New York I8
Technicals—Atlanta coach Woodson, Walker
6, A-17/392 (19/50).

Trail Blazers 99. Heat 87

PORTLAND — Abdur-Rahim 4-8 8-8 16, Ran-dolph 11-21 2-5 24, Ratliff 2-5 2-3 6, D.Ander-son 7-12 2-2 19, Stoudamire 3-12 0-0 8, Miles son 7-12 2-2 19, Stbudamire 3-12 0-0 8, Miles 49 1-2 9, Van Exel 4-9 4-4 15, Przybilla 0-0 0-0 0, Patterson 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 36-79 19-24 99. MIAMI — Butler 1-3 0-0 2, Haslem 3-17 2-2 8, O'Nea15-8 7-13 17, Wade 5-13 9-11 19, EJones 5-10 0-0 12, S.Anderson 7-9 1-2 17, D.Jones 0-4

ihree-Point Goals-Portland 8-17 (D. Anderson 3-4, Van Exel 3-6, Stoudamire 2-6, Patterson 0-1), Miam 1-4 (E. Jones 2-4, S. Anderson 2-4, Butler 0-1, Hasiem 0-1, D. Jones 0-4), Fouled out-Rattliff, Rebounds-Portland Scho

Sonics 103, Timberwolves 92 StarTie - Levis 10-183-4.77. Forms 1-40-0
SEATTIE - Levis 10-183-4.77. Forms 1-40-0
3-62-29. Colligon 6-10-00. Daniels 4-11-4-11.
3-62-29. Colligon 6-10-00. Daniels 4-11-4-11.
3-62-29. Colligon 6-10-00. Daniels 4-11-4-11.
3-62-29. Colligon 6-10-00. Spreavell 9-62-29. Colligon 6-10-00. Colligon 6-10-00. Spreavell 9-62-29. Colligon 6-10-00. Colligo

Three-Point Goals—Seattle 10-19 (Lewis 4-5, Radmanovic 3-6, Allen 2-5, Ridnour 1-1, Daniels 0-2), Minnesota 9-25 (Hudson 4-10), Holberg 3-4, Szczerbiak 1-2, Griffin 1-3, Cassout—None, Rebounds—Seattle 39 (Evans 9), Minnesota 52 (Garnett 14), Assists—Seattle 17 (Daniels 11), Minnesota 21 (Garnett 6), Total fouls—Seattle 18, Minnesota 24, Technical—Fortson, A—16,129 (1904).

Nuggets 90, Nets 88

NEW JERSEY – E.Williams 4-8 1-2 9, Collins 0-4 0-9 0, Mourning 1-8 0-0 2, Planinic 3-6 1-2 9, Jefferson 10-18 6-9 25, Scalabrine 5-7 0-0 11, Best 5-13 0-0 11, Burdor 5-10 2-0 13, A.Williams 2-4 3-3 7, Vaughn 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-78

3.18.88. Martin 10-19 2-3 22, Anthony 150-06, Gamby 6-10 0-1 12, Buckner 4-8 0-0, Miller 8-10 1-1 17, Nene 1-5 3-4 5, Boykins 7-2-2 12, Dohnson 0-0 0-0 0, Russell 1-2 2-2, Totals 38-76 10-13 90.

Kings 102. Rockets 96

NIIIS 1U-, NOCKETS 30 HOUSTON (69) 11. 1 13(07 - 26, 0. 4, 100 - 1. 1) Jackson 48 1. 11. 13(07 - 26, 0. 4, 100 - 1. 1) Jackson 48 1. 10 - 1. 10 Jackson 48 1. 10

Lakers 100, Bucks 96

MILWAUKEE — Van Horn 2-11 5-6 10, Smith 4-8 0-0 8, Gadzuric 3-5 1-4 7, Redd 1-8 4-4 6, M.Williams 2-4 0-0 4, James 7-15 2-2 18, Mason 12-16 2-5 26, Pachulia 3-3-0-6, Strick-land 2-2 0-0 4, Fizer 2-5 3-4 7. Totals 38-77 17-25 96, LA. LAKERS — Butler 7-13 1-1 16, Odom 8-12 0-3 17, Mihm 4-6 4-4 12, Bryant 11-24 8-10 30, Atkins 1-8 5-6 8, J.Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Cook 4-7 0-0 9, Divac 0-0 0-0 0, Brown 3-5 2-2 8, Rush 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-77 20-26 100.

0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-77 20-26 100.

Milwaukee 19 33 21 23 - 96
L.A. Lakers 27 20 27 26-100
Three-Point Goals-Milwaukee 3-4 (James 2-2, Van Hom 1-2), L.A. Lakers 4-16 (Cook 1-2, 2-2, Van Horn 1-2), L.A. Lakers 4-16 (Cook 1-2, Odom 1-2, Butler 1-4, Atkins 1-5, J. Jones 0-1, Bryant 0-2), Fouled out—None. Rebound-5-Milwaukee 53 (Gadzuric 11), L.A. Lakers 39 (Odom 9), Assists—Milwaukee 19 (James 11), L.A. Lakers 20 (Brown 6), Total fouls—Mil-waukee 26, L.A. Lakers 25. A—18,215 (18,997).

Warriors 115, Hornets 109

NEW ORLEANS — Brown 4-11 6-6 14, Nailon 6-16 6-6 18, Magloire 9-21 9-16 27, Wesley 9-21 2-2 22, D.Armstrong 3-5-0-7, Harrington 4-7 0-0 8, Lynch 0-0 0-10, Andersen 1-4 1-2 3, West 3-4 3-3 10, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Freije 0-5 0-0 0. Totals 39-94 27-35 199.

u. totals 39-44 27-35 109, GOLDEN STATE Robbinson 2-7-2-6, Dun-Leavy 2-7-0-6 5, Dunis 2-5-35 7, Richardson 10-28 3-6-28, Claxton 5-14 11-15 21, Foyle 3-5 0-6, Cheaney 9-18-0-0 18, Najera 3-7 1-2-7, Fisher 2-9 1-1

10-10s 25-37115.

New Orleans 23 22 17 74 11 5 7-109 New Orlean Golden State In Section 20 11 74 11 5 7-109 New Orleans 41 31 (Wesley 2-6, West 1-1, D.Armstrong 1-2, Freije 0-4), Golden State 6-19 (Richardson 3-7, Pietrus 1-2, Dunleavy 1-4, Fisher 1-5, Cheaney 0-1), Fouled out –Brown, D.Armstrong, Harrington, D.Davis, Rebounds –New Orleans 72 (Brown 15), Golden State 6-7 (Richardson 15), Founded out –New Orleans 72 (Brown 15), Golden State 6-7 (Richardson 15), Golden State 6-7 Orleañs 72 (Bröwn 15), Golden State 57 (Rich-ardson 12), Assists – New Orleans 25 (D. Arm-strong 7), Golden State 27 (Richardson 7). Total fouls – New Orleans 33, Golden State 32. Technicals – New Orleans Defensive Three Second, Magloire. A – 15,362 (19,596).



William Paulson, 26, describes the brawl that took place at The Palace of Auburn Hills at the end of the game between Detroit and Indiana Friday night, during a news conference in the law offices of Jeffrey Fieger on Monday in Southfield, Mich. At left is attorney Todd J. Weglarz, who was holding the news conference in Fieger's absence. Paulson is among those filing suit in the aftermath of the brawl.

Two Pistons fans sue Pacers

BY DAVID RUNK The Associated Press

DETROIT - Two fans sued the Indiana Pacers and players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal on Tuesday, contending they were injured in the brawl at the end of the Pistons-Pacers game.

Lawvers for John Ackerman and William Paulson filed suits in Oakland County Circuit Court in Pontiac, seeking unspecified damages

Ackerman, a 67-year-old retired auto worker, says he was hit by O'Neal and then by a chair that a fan hurled into the crowd. His suit also names Palace Sports & Entertainment Inc., which operates the Pistons' arena

"He was knocked unconscious

by the chair," said Todd Weglarz, who along with lawver Geoffrey Fieger represents the men. "The next thing he recalls is being helped into a wheelchair

Police released a copy of a videotape Tuesday showing a man who investigators believe threw the chair, and they asked the public to help identify him.

Fieger, a former Democratic gubernatorial candidate, is known for representing high-profile clients such as assisted-suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian.

Paulson, 26, says he was punched by Jackson and assaulted by Artest. Weglarz said Paulson's family has had Pistons season tickets for about 25 years.

Paulson, who works in real estate, and Ackerman have been diagnosed with concussions from the brawl, Weglarz said.

The NBA suspended Artest for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25.

Pistons spokesman Matt Dobek said the team and The Palace were aware of the lawsuits but declined comment. The Pacers did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Oakland County prosecutor David Gorcyca has said the only possible felony charge in the brawl could be against the chair-thrower. He said other charges most likely would be for misdemeanor assault and batterv

Auburn Hills police Lt. James Manning said the investigation could take two to three weeks. Investigators are reviewing videotapes and interviewing witnesses. Artest and other Pacers had not been interviewed, Manning said.

Players' union wants appeals to go to arbiter

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Employing an unexpected strategy in an effort to fight the suspensions leveled by Commissioner David Stern, the NBA players' union is seeking to have the case heard by an arbitrator

The union filed an anneal Tuesday on behalf of Indiana Pacers players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, who were suspended for their roles in a brawl with Detroit Pistons fans

Artest was banned for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25. Union director Billy Hunter has called the penalties excessive, saying a suspen-sion of about 35 games would have been more appropriate for Artest.

Now, Hunter appears to be attempting an end-around to avoid the rule stating the commissioner has sole authority - and is the final avenue of appeal - over matters of discipline involving on-court behavior

"The players association's ef-forts to bring this matter before an arbitrator ignores the plain language of the collective bargaining agreement and the consistent nast practice of the parties and will ultimately fail." NBA spokesman Brian McIntyre said.

Stern would normally have 20 days to rule on an appeal of an on-court discipline matter, and it was unclear whether the union's anneal strategy would nut this case under that timetable.

"The action taken by the commissioner sets a new high-water mark in terms of the kind of disci nline he feels he can impose. Hunter said. "I think he has exceeded his authority and should be subject to review and chal-

In other developments:

■ Two fans sued the Pacers and Artest, Jackson and O'Neal, contending they were injured in the fracas at the end of Friday night's game at Detroit. John Ackerman, 67, says he was hit by O'Neal and then knocked unconscious by a thrown chair. William Paulson, 26, says Artest and Jackson assaulted him.

■ Police released a videotape and asked the public's help in identifying a man who investigators believe hurled the chair into the crowd during the brawl. Oakland County prosecutor David Gorcyca has said the only possi-ble felony charge in the brawl could be against the chair-thrower. He said other charges most

likely would be for misdemeanor ■ Artest appeared on NBC's "Today," saying he respected Stern but thought his punishment

assault and battery.

was unduly harsh. He used the opportunity to plug a CD he produced for an R&B group and wore a T-shirt and hat emblazoned with the logo of his record

The players' union was contemplating taking its case to federal court. A similar strategy failed in 1997 when the union contested the suspensions handed out to four members of the New York Knicks for leaving the bench during a fight in a playoff game against the Miami Heat.

In that case, U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff cited article XXXI. section 8 of the league's collective bargaining agreement establishing the commissioner as the complete and final authority on discinline for what hannens on the

The language, the judge said, is "so plain, so clear, so unequivo cal, so on-point to the dispute that underlies this controversy.'

'In that case we were seeking an injunction. We may not pursue an injunction if we pursue this in federal court," Hunter said, adding the union will argue that since some of the punishable behavior happened in the stands, it should not fall under the definition of "on-court behavior."

"We think the court is limited to the court itself, the 90-by-50 piece of hardwood, and the bench-" Hunter said.

In 1998, the union successfully appealed the one-year suspension Stern gave to Latrell Sprewell, then with the Golden State Warriors, for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo during practice. It was reduced by an arbitrator to 68 games.

The difference hetween Sprewell's case and the current one is that Sprewell's attack on Carlesimo happened in practice, so it was not considered on-court behavior and was subject to the arbitration provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

The suspensions also could be contested by the Pacers, who have the right under NBA bylaws to appeal the commissioner's decision to the league's Board of Gov-

No NBA team has ever made such an appeal, according to the

Pacers spokesman David Benner said the team had not yet decided if or how it might contest the penalties.

Artest bolted into the stands after being hit by a cup thrown by a fan, touching off a brawl in which players exchanged punches with fans, who also threw drinks, popcorn, and other debris at the Pacers.

Jackson also went into the stands and exchanged punches with fans, while O'Neal hit a fan who ran onto the court.

Stern's moves appease sponsors

By JIM SUHR

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS - NBA Commissioner David Stern may have called the perfect play after the brawl during the Pacers-Pistons game. By swiftly suspending the players involved, observers say, Stern deftly soothed sponsors into sticking with the league.

Anheuser-Busch, for example declared it was pleased the NBA took action and would continue its support. Coca-Cola also said it backed Stern's response

"We can't the let actions of an irresponsible few cloud the fact that the vast majority of players and fans are responsible," said Tony Ponturo, vice president of global media and sports marketing for the brewer.

Marketing specialist David Carter confirmed that Stern indeed did all the right things. When something goes wrong, he said investors and customers want to see the guy whose name is on the door address it.

"Stakeholders no-holds-barred response, and that's what they got [from Stern]," the California-based Carter said Tuesday. "Anything short of what he did would have raised questions

Last week's brawl snawned a national debate about the behavior of fans and millionaire ath-

Within two days, Stern banned Indiana's Ron Artest for the season and two fellow Pacers Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal - for 30 and 25 games, respectively. Six other players were suspended for far lesser periods, four of them for just one game.

The NBA players' union filed an appeal Tuesday on behalf of those players, asking that an arbitrator decide whether the punishments were excessive.

The union's director Billy Hunter, has apologized for the "reprehensible" behavior in Frimelee. But he argued during ABC's "Nightline" on Monday that the players were being sacri ficed to placate fans and spon-

"[Stern] has to demonstrate that somebody's in control because NBA basketball is a multibillion-dollar industry," Hunter said

"But, you know, again, I can't sit back as the head of the union and not act or respond in an instance where I think the commissioner's overreacted

Carter said there is a risk of turning off the league's corporate sponsors if the suspensions are re-

Stern "knows that how he handles this and how the league rebounds from this will go a great distance in establishing his legacy and whether the NBA can continue generating cash.

SPORTS



A&M's turnaround would be complete with victory Friday over Texas. Page 26



Jones reunion falls into place

Thanksgiving 'good as it gets' for RBs, family

BY JAIME ARON

IRVING, Texas — Thomas and Betty Jones fully appreciate the good health and great timing that's bringing their entire family together on Thanksgiving for the first time in nine years.

Like thousands of families across the country, they'll spend Thursday afternoon watching the Chicago Bears play the Dallas Cowboys. Except there's one big difference: Their sons will be the starting running backs for both teams, Thomas of the Bears and Julius of the Cowboys.

"That's probably as good as it gets," Betty Jones said. "It will be a day we never

The family has been looking forward to this game since Julius was drafted in April. Several things nearly threw off the reunion, but everything has fallen into place.





AP photos

Julius Jones, left, and Thomas Jones, right, will start for their respective teams when the Bears play the Cowboys on Thanksgiving, the first time the entire family has been together for the holday in nine years. Parents and siblings will split their allegiance.

"This is not the biggest thing in life," says the proud pop, "but it's darn near it."

Thomas and Julius are the only boys

among seven children.

They've always been extremely close and have shared a love of football.

and have shared a love of football.

When they watched NFL games as kids, they imagined being a running back/brother tandem like Joe and Jamie Morris.

Individually, Thomas wanted to be like Chicago's Walter Payton, and Julius looked up to Dallas' Tony Dorsett and Herschel Walker

Amazingly, each is now starring for those teams.

Only three years apart, they shared a bedroom until Thomas left for college.

They still talk several times a week — except so far this week while preparing for their first head-to-head football game that doesn't involve crayons, folded paper triangles or a joystick.

"That's probably all we used to fight about, Nintendo games," Julius said, laughing. "We were on the same peewee football team, and we got our pads the first day. He duped me into trying my pads on and then he'd take me outside and bang me around a little bit. Other than that, we got along really well."

Their bond was strengthened in 2002, when Julius was academically ineligible at Notre Dame. Thomas was going through his own tough times on the Arizona Cardinals and invited Julius to live with him. They sometimes could be found alone in a gym at 4 a.m., channeling their frustrations into weightfilting.

"It would be pretty tough for me to say that I would be here without him," Julius

When they see each other on the field Thursday, they'll certainly share a big hug-Just imagining that scene chokes up their father, a former employee at a super-maximum security prison who rarely shows emotion.

SEE JONES ON PAGE 28

Pacers show some fight





AP nho

Left: Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley (left) and Boston Celtics guard Paul Pierce battle for a loose ball during the fourth quarter in Indianapolis. Tinsley finished with 29 points to lead the short-handed Pacers to a 106-96 victory. It was Tinsley's first game since the brawl that led to the suspension of several Indiana players. He suffered a wrist injury during that melee. Above: Tinsley displays the number of teammate Ron Artest (91) on the back of his shoe during the game. Artest was suspended for the season. Tinsley also wore wristbands with the names and numbers of suspended players Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal. For details on the game and on ramifications of the brawl, see Pages 30-31.



Kansas hands St. Joseph's one of worst losses ever

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doled out for four in Big Ten

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